

SONOMA COUNTY

# peace press

Publication of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ Become an Active Advocate for Peace & Justice
- ▶ War Is Not The Answer
- ▶ Hate and Antisemitism in the North Bay
- ▶ Updates: from NAACP, So.Co. Black Forum, Commission on Human Rights  
*and much more*

# Martin Luther King, Jr.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 2023



*“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”* —MLK

Honoring the Legacy of  
Dr. King’s work for Civil Rights,  
Social Justice and Freedom

**Sun. Jan. 15, 6:30-8:00 PM**

ZOOM EVENT, ID: 882 4845 5259

PASSCODE: 172836



PRESENTED BY MLK BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,  
an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).  
467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
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## Join the Peace & Justice Center

See Membership form on back cover

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### SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline for Feb/Mar issue is Jan. 19, 2023

Email articles in MSWord to [zenekar2@gmail.com](mailto:zenekar2@gmail.com)

(put PEACE PRESS in all caps on subject line)

Word limit up to 700-900 words (negotiable).

Shorter pieces welcome about local actions and events.

**Authors are encouraged to delineate fact from opinion and wherever possible to substantiate their facts with references. Include ways readers can engage with the movement for peace and social justice.**

We welcome poems but limited to approx. 30 lines.

### EDITING POLICY

The Editorial Collective selects articles that serve the movement for peace and justice in a positive way. Articles are edited for clarity, syntax, grammar, length and spelling. If needed, authors will be contacted to assist with editing. Submissions must contain author's name, address, phone number, word count and a brief – one or two sentence bio. Decisions about editing fall within these guidelines and are the final judgment of the Peace Press editorial collective.

**Articles are the opinion of the author unless otherwise noted.**

### CALENDAR ITEMS

Events on topics of social justice, environmental, and related items to be placed in the PJC weekly email calendar, can be sent to [peacejusticesonoma@gmail.com](mailto:peacejusticesonoma@gmail.com)  
Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

### DISPLAY SPONSORSHIP RATES & SPECS

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Receive the PJC weekly Social Justice e-newsletter, or to schedule an appointment, please contact us through our website: [PJCso.co.org](http://PJCso.co.org)

**DISCLAIMER:** The content of the Peace Press represents the views of the contributors and does not necessarily represent the views of the Sonoma County Peace & Justice Center or its Board of Directors.

## GETTING CENTERED

# Become an Active Advocate for Peace & Justice

Dear Friends of the Peace & Justice Center,

We appreciate all of your support over our nearly 40 years of serving the Community. We will celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2024 and would love your feedback on planning for the festivities.

WinterBlast is happening again this year! The date is Saturday, December 10, 4:00 to 8:30 pm. The PJC will have music by Johnny Tsunami and the Hurricanes in our parking lot along with a Beer/Wine Garden. This free family-friendly community event is fun for kids and adults.

The Sonoma County Peace Press is published six times per year exclusively online. We continue to publish and archive the Peace Press on our website. We count on you to share the Peace Press with others. Also, we are seeking articles written by community members about any Social Justice issue.

Sign up to receive the PJC's e-newsletter via our [website](#), and/or to send us a message. Visit us on [Facebook](#).

We ask that you please make a generous donation during our 2022 Fall Appeal drive. Your donation helps support this nonprofit organization so that we may continue to do the vital work of our nonprofit mission: to inform, support and energize the Sonoma County community to create peace and social justice through active nonviolence.

The convenient [Donate](#) tab is on our website where donations can be made online via the secure link.

Donation Checks can be mailed to Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County, 467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing heartfelt support!  
Shekenya Black, Executive Director, Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County

## War Is Not The Answer

by Susan Collier Lamont

Proclamation, by Kim Stafford

*Whereas the world is a house on fire;  
Whereas the nations are filled with shouting;  
Whereas hope seems small, sometimes  
a single bird on a wire  
left by migration behind.  
Whereas kindness is seldom in the news  
and peace an abstraction  
while war is real;  
Whereas words are all I have;  
Whereas my life is short;  
Whereas I am afraid;  
Whereas I am free - despite all  
fire and anger and fear;  
Be it therefore resolved a song  
shall be my calling - a song  
not yet made shall be vocation  
and peaceful words the work  
of my remaining days.*

I've been writing for the *Peace Press* for more than twenty years. In those years, I've written many, many words on the subject of peace. One of the words I've focused on has been "imagination." I saw, within the peace community, an ability to imagine something better than our culture's addiction to war and violent solutions.

What are some words I have never written or uttered? "Let's send weapons and billions of dollars to Ukraine or any other country." And I don't intend to start now.

It actually doesn't take that much imagination to know what should have been done to avoid the current war in Ukraine. All it takes is a little historical knowledge; knowledge that there were those who offered the hand of cooperation and those who gave them the cold shoulder. There were two paths open to the United States and our "leaders" chose the wrong one.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Russian leaders, including Putin, offered the hand of cooperation. Russia asked to be part of the community of Western countries. This is documented fact. Faced with the choice of a "peace dividend" or continued funneling of huge sums of money to the "defense" industry, our country chose to serve Lockheed-Martin, Raytheon, Boeing.

The United States knows exactly what it wants and is quite willing to sacrifice both Ukrainian and Russian lives and our money to get it. The US wants the destruction of Russia as any form of economic or military competition. And there are two lessons from history that the US "rulers" learned well.

One, was the destruction that could be wrought on a country by drawing it into a proxy war, as the United States did to Russia in Afghanistan. It spelled the end to the Soviet Union. (Let's note that "our" forays into Afghanistan and Iraq have also

*War Is Not The Answer...see page 12*



# PJC Represented at Hope & Healing Conference

MaDonna Feather-Cruz attended and spoke at the Hope and Healing Conference in Sacramento California on Nov. 18, 19, and 20, representing the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County. She networked and collaborated with many other non-profit entities along with corporate. MaDonna has opened the door to offer the Peace & Justice Center location for persons and organizations she networked with, building important relationships with the Native American & POC community.

The Hope and Healing Conferen included discussion about the importance of the organizations: "No More Stolen Sister," "Protect the Sacred" and "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)." Each attendee received a red bandanna designed with the names of these organizations.

[amnesty.ca/what-we-do/no-more-stolen-sisters](https://www.amnesty.ca/what-we-do/no-more-stolen-sisters)  
[iwillharness.com/program/protect-the-sacred](https://www.iwillharness.com/program/protect-the-sacred)  
[nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw](https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw)



MaDonna Feather-Cruz spoke at the conference. Alicia Sanchez and other participants hold up banners that commemorate MMIW.

# Passage of AB 1936 Advances Native American Rights and History

by MaDonna Feather-Cruz

On Monday, Nov. 14 2022, Sacramento CA Assembly member James C. Ramos held a breakfast to acknowledge all the hard work that has been done so far toward advancing Native American rights and history. This breakfast allowed for Round Valley and Yuki tribes to come together and celebrate passage of AB 1936, which renames a San Francisco law school.

The California Constitution provides that the University of California (UC) constitutes a public trust, and requires the university to be administered by the Regents of the UC, a corporation with a board that has full powers of organization and government, subject to legislative control only for specified purposes. Existing law establishes the Hastings College of Law, under the governance of an 11-member Board of Directors of the College, within the UC system. The law provides that the college shall forever be known and designated as the Hastings College of the Law.

Under the existing law, six directors constitutes a quorum for the transaction of all business of the college's board of directors. The law requires one of the directors to always be an heir or representa-

tive of Serranus Clinton (S.C.) Hastings and all other directors to serve 12-year terms. The law also requires vacancies occurring in the board of directors, other than the death or resignation of the heir or representative of S.C. Hastings, to be filled by the Governor and approved by the Senate.

This bill would instead provide that the college shall be designated as the College of the Law, San Francisco, as provided. The bill would make conforming changes. The bill would specify that a majority of directors constitutes a quorum for the transaction of all of the board of directors' business, and would require all directors to serve 12-year terms, except as provided. The bill would require all vacancies occurring on the board of directors, including a vacancy of the heir or representative of S.C. Hastings, to be filled by the Governor and approved by the Senate.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 67385 of the Education Code proposed by AB 1467 to be operative only if this bill and AB 1467 are enacted, and this bill is enacted last.

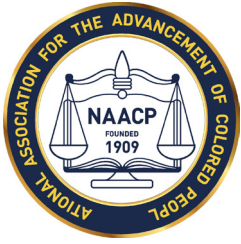
A breakfast to acknowledge all the hard work that has been done so far toward advancing Native American rights and history. This breakfast allowed for Round Valley and Yuki tribes to come together and celebrate passage of AB 1936, which renames a San Francisco law school. See: [facebook.com/AsmJamesRamos](https://www.facebook.com/AsmJamesRamos)



Breakfast and ceremony to celebrate passage of AB 1936.







**NAACP**  
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County

# Local Branch President's Report

by *Kirstyne Lange*

*"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good." – Maya Angelou*

As we close the month of November, we must honor Sonoma County's Indigenous People, the Wappo, Southern Pomo and Coast Miwok in celebration of Indigenous Heritage Month. I hope you were able to take part in the various events and learning opportunities made available throughout Sonoma County. There are also an abundance of online resources and tours by appointment to the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center.

Reflecting on the rapid pace in which December is now upon us, I am humbled and grateful by the continued efforts our branch leaders have made to keep the movement going. Our committees remain steadfast in their pursuit of social justice and community engagement. The last few months have been filled with continuing to build up our branch, develop and rejuvenate operational systems, programs, and be as responsive as possible to member & community inquiries and support needs. It is hard to often remember how much has happened over the last several months.

In addition to the technical, operational, financial and programmatic work we've been engaged in, the executive committee has continued to make important decisions focusing on the sustainability of the branch, and I have been invited to join with other community organizers to build a collaborative of programs to envision a stronger, better connected and cooperative community with workspaces and resources to support all members of the community and wealth building.

Along with the optimism and hopes for the year ahead, gratitude has grounded me. I am grateful for all of the difficult conversations that I have had the fortune to have in the last month. As a DEI practitioner, feedback and difficult conversations are a part of my daily "language" and they are some of the biggest gifts we can offer one another as humans. I wrapped up October with the quarterly meeting with the West County School District Leadership. As many of you know, we have been working with them since March 2022 advocating for families and then helping the district navigate the fallout from the racist "promposal." While we would all love to focus on this district's challenges, I must be frank, ALL Sonoma County schools are struggling to address matters of race and the bias of discipline and the negative impacts trickle down on Black students as young as 1st grade. Ms. Carter, Superintendent elect has her work cut out for her, but she has demonstrated a willingness to have open

and difficult conversations and we look forward to her tenure.

In mid- November, I was finally able to have a follow up conversation with the Executive Director of Sonoma Raceway to talk about the June 2022 incident in which a confederate flag was displayed on an attendees camper trailer. This conversation was long overdue and productive in hearing how the Raceway team has reviewed the situation, handled staff training and how they will continue to be proactive with their event weekend vendors and partners to address any confederate displays. There is so much more we can continue to learn collaboratively together as a larger community from this situation.

I returned to West County in mid-November, along with Herman G., member & Executive Director of Los Cien, and spoke on a panel at Analy High School. This community event was organized by the West County High Activists group and spotlighted the historical issues and patterns of racism and current students shared their experiences. The conversation was the first of many, and I emphasized the important responsibility the school has to foster a better sense of safety and belonging for students. There were only two para teachers participating - that in and of itself is a sign that their peers in the classrooms need to engage more deeply to help shift the culture. The students and administrators cannot do it alone.

As we've covered in General Membership meetings and the State of Black Housing workshop series, we are engaging deeply on the Housing Element process and providing feedback to all municipalities. Many are really struggling to inculcate the feedback around tenant protections and concrete programs to increase access and affordability to housing, especially for Black residents. This is a long haul, but we will not let up in the process. Each city and county must reckon with the truth; the racist practices and policies are how we got here and we need to see programs with "teeth" in order to get us back in shape. To date, we are 17,000 units short of the demonstrated need. Members of Permit Sonoma's Planning Commission must prioritize their efforts to increase new builds in the county that are multi-family units especially in the unincorporated areas. Housing access and affordability is a basic human right.

I look forward to the close of 2022. I hope you will continue to remain active in your membership, or have considered taking the step in joining us officially. Our committee leaders are amazing and could use every helping hand and skillset out there in the move towards a more equitable and inclusive Sonoma County.

*"Let's stand together, stick together, and work together for justice of every description. Racial justice. Gender justice. Immigrant justice. Economic justice. Environmental justice." - Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago.*

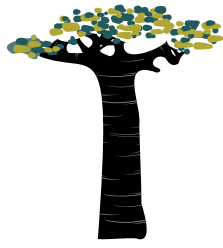
*Kirstyne Lange is President of the Santa Rosa-Sonoma NAACP*

**Become a member of the NAACP  
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County Branch**



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# Crucial Services Offered



## SONOMA COUNTY BLACK FORUM LEAD — SERVE — THRIVE

### Black Therapy Fund

To support equitable access to mental health services and to reduce racial, ethnic, and/or socioeconomic disparities, the Sonoma County Black Therapy Fund (SCBTF) will provide up to a year (12 sessions) of no-cost mental health counseling from culturally competent therapists, for up to 234 qualifying Sonoma County residents. Services will be provided over the entire program period, through December 31, 2024 (or earlier if funds have been expended).

This funding is being provided by the County of Sonoma, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

#### What Services are Covered?

Mental Health Services in-person or via telemedicine. Although you and your provider will determine how many sessions you need, this program will provide a total of 12 individual sessions for each client.

#### Do I qualify for a voucher?

- Are you experiencing mental health challenges or issues? You qualify.
- Are you in need of mental health support or therapy? You qualify.
- Do you need funding support to cover costs of services? You qualify.
- This program is open to all Sonoma County residents regardless of immigration status.
- Sonoma County Black Forum will not require applicants to state their immigration status.
- Sonoma County Black Forum will not deny assistance to an otherwise eligible household on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

#### How does the SCBTF Program work?

Participants fill out a simple application form online. Once accepted into the program, participants are assigned an SCBTF account number and provided with a list of Partner Mental Health Providers. Participants are responsible for the following: contacting therapists, scheduling an initial consultation and follow up therapy sessions.

#### Can I work with a therapist who is not on the provider list?

We encourage participants to utilize the partner provider list to receive services as quickly as possible. However, if you have specific needs, therapists not in our network will be reviewed by SCBTF on a case by case basis. Please contact us if you have a specific provider request.

The Sonoma County Black Therapy Fund program is administered by Sonoma County Black Forum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP0246 awarded to the County of Sonoma by the US Department of the Treasury, One Time Financial Assistance for Those in Need (Santa Rosa, CA)

### Financial Assistance Program

To address essential basic needs of many vulnerable, furloughed, unemployed, and underemployed Sonoma County residents, the Sonoma County Black Forum will offer support through its Financial Assistance Program. Funding is provided by the County of Sonoma, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Qualifying Sonoma County residents will receive a one time Financial Assistance in the amount of \$1,200. Funding will be provided to 225 residents for food assistance, a fuel/gas card, rent and/or general housing assistance. The Sonoma County Financial Assistance Program is administered by the Sonoma County Black Forum, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization formed in August 2018. Our motto is to Lead, Serve, and Thrive, as we build and sustain an engaged, inclusive, and informed community.

**Online applications are available.** In person applications are available by Appointment Only at 1717 Yulupa Avenue, Room 3, Santa Rosa, CA. To schedule an appointment or for additional information contact the Sonoma County Black Forum at 707-343-8734, email us at [info.scbf.fa@gmail.com](mailto:info.scbf.fa@gmail.com) or visit our [website](https://www.sonomacountyblackforum.com). Sonoma County Black Forum, PO Box 1093, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 [sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com](mailto:sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com) [sonomacountyblackforum.com](https://www.sonomacountyblackforum.com)  
Tax ID: 38-4070204

**NAACP**  
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County

**ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE SURVEY**

<https://bit.ly/NAACPSonomaEJ>

Please take this survey to help us gather information on how the community feels about environmental and climate justice.

After completing the survey, you can enter a raffle for a \$25 Gift Card

**Environmental and climate justice is a civil rights issue!**  
Please click [HERE](https://bit.ly/NAACPSonomaEJ) to participate in the survey.



# Egg Processing Facility Turned Social Justice Community Space

by Soneile Hymn, Ashleigh Sgrulloni,  
and Sallie Latch

Once an egg processing facility in the 1940s, the Eggery expanded in the 1970s into a cafe, art gallery and event space where belly dancers, musicians (including “Spirit in the Sky” singer Norman Greenbaum) and other creatives delighted patrons as they dined. The Eggery was later converted into a home and sold in early 2022. When Mary Beth and Eric Leland purchased the historic Petaluma property this March, they knew they needed to keep the Eggery’s legacy alive, creating a space that advocates for good and honors its community. With this, the Devilled Eggery was born. Devoted to programs that support themes of social justice, creative expression, mental health, sustainable agriculture and environmental protection, the Devilled Eggery is “a community living room where ideas for a healthy community are hatched.”

The new organization has hosted an eclectic variety of programs. This summer, they launched the Devilled Eggery Scything Club - a loosely structured group of locals who help the community with free scything of tall weeds in order to minimize the impacts of heavy machinery while preparing for fire season. They also have hosted a Narcan workshop, inspired by two local families who lost children to drug overdoses; a book drive for new moms enrolled in Sonoma’s Nurse Family Partnership program; an anti-semitism action group; and meetings for Redwood Empire Trout Unlimited, a local stream restoration group. Fueled by Kaiser’s inadequate mental health care, they hosted a private workshop with media and local victims of Kaiser’s neglect, which exposed multiple cases of mismanagement, and several people getting more care via Mary Beth’s patient advocacy efforts. They also opened their doors to a local outdoor-only daycare during August’s heatwave, where the Eggery’s solar powered AC kept kids and staff safe from oppressive heat. Local soil guru Richard King held a full day workshop for community members, where the theme was living in concert with the environment, instead of in opposition to it.

Another cornerstone program of the new organization is its partnership with [Una Vida](#), a local organization that distributes food to families facing food insecurity. Twenty local families are now growing food for Una Vida’s distribution efforts via the Una Vida/Devilled Eggery Food Security Garden Network. Many of these gardens have recently been supplied with a generous donation of winter vegetable starts from Petaluma’s Cottage Gardens.

For their in-egg-ural art gallery, the Devilled Eggery hosted “Decades,” which celebrated the rich intergenerational creativity that thrives in our community, with proceeds benefiting the food security and outreach work of Petaluma’s Una Vida. The art show featured an eclectic group of local artists of all ages and experience levels. One artist from each of 10 decades (ages 1-9, 10-19, up to 89-100) were showcased, from beginning, never exhibited artists to established and internationally known artists.



*Cottage Gardens recently donated hundreds of dollars of vegetable starts to the Devilled Eggery/Una Vida Garden Network.*

Featured artists included Marguerite Elliot, an award-winning multimedia sculptor; Sallie Latch, an 89 year old anti-war activist who grew up on a local chicken farm, and whose work is shown in private collections around the world; and Alli Thrower, Faith Raby and Jaxson Watkins who exhibited their work for the first time! Other featured artists were Matt Gaser (who worked on as a lead concept artist and designer for Lucasfilm’s Star Wars: The Clone Wars, The Angry Birds Movie, Rugrats, World of Warcraft, League of Legends and more); Emma Logan, whose recent works have highlighted disparities in land and water access for agricultural practices in the state of California, cultural appropriation of art and ideas through ancestral relationships, the overlap between community isolation and food scarcity, and the sensory relationship of memory to cultural identity; Norma Giddings, a ceramicist who grew up at the Eggery; Amaya Yoshikawa (an up and coming African-Asian-American artist based in Sonoma County who strives to work on politically motivated pieces) and Kristi Quint (a breast cancer survivor who would like to urge women to get their mammograms), both who participated in Petaluma’s BLM mural; and Soijana Esaia Gonzalez, a young veteran living with the trifecta of ADHD, chronic depression, and generalized anxiety - all wrapped into the suffocating blanket that can be complex PTSD.

The Devilled Eggery is a gathering space where ideas for a healthy community are hatched. The primary hatchers are Eric and Mary Beth Leland, who just recently bought the property housing the Devilled Eggery. It fulfills their dream to offer a place to connect with others and explore ideas that build strong communities that are environmentally sustainable, compassionate, equitable and just.

[Check them out](#) and consider hatching a community event with them. Use of their space is free! 🌱

# Hate and Antisemitism Rearing Its Ugly Head in the North Bay

by *Eric Leland*

In 2019, I read in the local news about antisemitic flyers being dropped in several places across Novato. The story identified the flyers as a product of a local antisemitic network based in Petaluma. Having just moved to Petaluma last year, I decided to dig deeper. I learned that this network has been active across the nation in spreading mostly anti-Jewish hate along with some anti-LGBTQ-IA+ hate for years. Digging further, I learned that the hate network has multiple businesses registered with the state of California, officially located in Petaluma, CA. One of those locations was mere blocks from my home. I learned that this hate group thrives off of negative press and that the primary way this local network builds support is through mentions in the news media and social media. Hence, I will not name them publicly – they are covered extensively by the Anti Defamation League and others who track hate groups.

After sharing some of the news stories with others, I was surprised to learn that almost everyone I spoke to locally was totally unaware that Petaluma is the official business location of a virulent antisemitic network. Since 2019, antisemitism has continued to rise dramatically, with 2020 and 2021 having seen the most anti-Jewish

*This year, a group of us met to discuss antisemitism locally – to share stories, safety concerns, and to identify actions we could take.*

hate incidents since the ADL began tracking them in 1979.

In talking about this issue with Jewish friends and neighbors, I learned that many people were frightened by the overall rise in anti-Jewish hatred nationally, and many were stunned to learn how close to home such a prominent hate group was located. While many are willing to take action, many are unwilling to speak out publicly for fear of being a target of hate attacks.

This year, a group of us met to discuss antisemitism locally – to share stories, safety concerns, and to identify actions we could take. One fundamental problem the group identified is that people do not feel that our leaders are really looking out for them, as supportive statements and actions have been very few. A member of our group shared with us the success Marin County had in passing a county-wide ordinance against Antisemitism. We read about their experience in getting this passed, and we agreed this would be a great action to take. Having our leaders, starting with the County, make a strong and inclusive statement against Antisemitism and all forms of hate speech, would be a starting point to showing our Jewish community and all communities targeted by hate speech that our leaders do care, and do recognize the fast rising problem of antisemitism locally.

We started by researching the Marin County language and passage, and discussed with those knowledgeable in our group about how to get support for this issue. We contacted the Sonoma County

Commission on Human Rights to ask for their input. They were quick to respond, and engage with our group to provide us direction on how to get this on the agenda for the Commission. Our group created draft language for a County wide ordinance against Antisemitism and all forms of hate and prepared a presentation for the November 22, 2022 meeting of the Commission on Human Rights.

During the presentation, we had several members of the public speak up, and strong support from the Commissioners. Although the Commission did not take action, they indicated they want to meet with us to help refine the language and get this on another agenda soon for action.

Here is an [interview in the Press Democrat](#) that I felt was not ideal, as it allowed this hate network to castigate Petaluma to their large network of haters. [ADL information.](#)

*Eric Leland is with a group of Sonoma County residents who are concerned about rising antisemitism and hate speech in our community.* 🌱

## Peace Press Collective Seeking Editors, Writers and Proof Readers

The Peace Press Collective produces the bi-monthly (every other month) publication of the Peace & Justice Center. The next issue will be out in February. Deadline for submission of articles is January 18. Articles are proofed and lightly edited for grammar, spelling. Then the finished Peace Press is to be proofed at the end of the month before publication.

Please reply to [zenekar2@gmail.com](mailto:zenekar2@gmail.com) with PEACE PRESS in all caps on the subject line.

### CALABI GALLERY



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# ARTICLE FROM PRISON: My Journey Toward Change and Success

by Logan Keith Dunning

My experience with prison began on December 17, 2013. I was transferred from the solitary confinement housing unit within the Sonoma County Jail to San Quentin Prison. The mind state of who I was then and who I am now are completely opposite. At the time, when I arrived in prison, I was under the influence of several narcotics, whereas, presently, I am three years sober. My experience within the confines of slate grey walls, circulation cutting handcuffs and the foul attitudes of “peace” officers began while I dwelled within a mindset of violence, negativity, pessimism, and hate. I have now formed positive channels of thoughtful communications, through optimism and everyday actions, to rehabilitate myself and those in my environment. Each positive action we take propels us prisoners toward making changes for ourselves, our lives and our families. Being in possession of the capabilities needed to be successful, now and in the future upon our release, is our goal on the road to redemption.

*Each day, I witness change and see growth in those that are assumed to be troublemakers. With this comes a joy that is indescribable, that I take to be the joy of accomplishment toward my goal of changing from who I was to who I am becoming.*

The first seven years of my incarceration I did not possess the communication skills to speak with authority figures. I lacked the language because my mindset was immersed in the attitude of “us versus them,” due to the infliction of pain, hostility, disrespect, and regression perpetrated against me and my peers by those paid to “guard” us. The first few years I isolated myself and did my best to remain silent. In 2016, after several incidents that resulted in disciplinary action, I began to use my skills as a creative writer to combat this crooked system in which I am confined. Using my eyes to see, my ears to listen to the ongoing problems taking place within these walls, and the experience I have from studying law, I filed grievances to alleviate the stress we have from the actions of those who continually attempt to oppress us. The goals of our oppressors are to prevent us from achieving the positivity we seek, thus delaying our rehabilitative efforts. Despite this, through the channeling of thoughts on paper, I began to make headway, removing defects within our yard, improving our surroundings, and developing attitudes of optimism from fellow prisoners that change is possible through daily determination, persistence, and creative written distribution.

After a couple of years of writing and filing paperwork to help assist the confined combat systemic oppression, I began being targeted by correctional officers in their attempt to quell my practice of defending inmates who do not understand the law and their basic rights, or are simply in fear of retaliation. On March 22, 2017, my cell was targeted for a search, the third in seven days. After a

brief conversation with the correctional officer searching, I began walking away, down the flight of stairs ahead of me. The officer pushed me from behind in what I felt was an attempt on my life. Fortunately, my reflexes are adept and I prevented myself from falling by reaching out for the railing. In response, my body went into “fight or flight” mode and I defended myself, punching the officer with one left cross, rendering him unconscious. Due to lack of witnesses or camera footage, the events of that day led me to a consecutive prison sentence of ten years, which I am presently serving. The event I experienced on that fateful day of March 22, 2017 has helped shape my journey from the immature, unknowing, indecisive, ignorant, futureless man I was, to the mature, surefooted, understanding man I am today.

I am a leader in the mission toward formidable change, helping to propel prisoners labeled “lost causes” by society toward being in possession of knowledge, higher intelligence, wisdom, and all of the capabilities needed to be pillars of our communities upon release. I

am a mentor and tutor in the #1 program in California prisons, P.L.M.P., which stands for “Peer Literacy Mentor Program.” Each of us in this program assists inmates in studying for their G.E.D.’s and improving their attitudes. We do this by being a person to whom they are able to speak openly, to express themselves and resolve any problems they encounter. I facilitate, or assist in the facilitation of, seven self-help groups, encouraging change, promoting sobriety, and speaking to those in this prison who feel helpless. I explain my concept of how to remove bad habits, be law-abiding citizens and become men who provide for their families. Providing introspection and insight to those who seek to be better people helps push me to assist as many prisoners as I can. Each day, I witness change and see growth in those that are assumed to be troublemakers. With this comes a joy that is indescribable, that I take to be the joy of accomplishment toward my goal of changing from who I was to who I am becoming. And most of all, I get to work with those striving toward the improvements and necessary change to be successful, that they may only achieve through their own efforts and participation.

In hindsight, I now know that without the bumps in the road, the struggles, and agony experienced throughout my prison term, I would not be who I am today. Though I would be free now had the past fateful day not occurred, I am glad for everything that happened to me. Without the trials and tribulations of past days, the growth, positivity, and changes I’ve made that have altered my life and those I surround myself with would not exist. I am no longer the boy who was sent to prison at age 22. I am a man of 32, who is mature, patient, kind, helpful, assertive, and sober. I know I am on the path to success. In life, we go through ups and downs. It’s not how we start life that matters. It’s how we choose to spend each day to better ourselves and our communities. The thoughtful choices we make to selflessly assist anyone who asks and the time we use to brighten our world, making sure a future exists for our children, friends and family, is of ultimately, the utmost importance. ✍



# Call for Immediate Winter Freeze Relief for Unsheltered Persons

by Katrina Phillips

The Commission on Human Rights worked alongside Sonoma County Acts of Kindness during the freeze over the New Years weekend in 2020-21. Many organizations had called for the opening of warming centers. The pressure from said organizations did little to urge the county. Right before the Freeze, AOK contacted CHR and we both realized we must do something immediately. We could not waste any more time. Human lives were at risk. We worked together to get 3 Heating Tents up in Santa Rosa and helped keep approximately 200 people warm over the three freezing and below freezing days.

Currently CHR will be working with LEAP, COC, and hopefully a Supervisor and a County Council to push for a move in policy that 32 degrees is too cold as a mark to open warming centers. Hypothermia can affect some people at 50 degrees. We cannot wait for the threat of death to open Warming Centers. We are open to working with all County offices to create a County Wide Ordinance on Warming Centers for the Unhoused.

Sonoma County has already experienced several consecutive days of 32 degrees and below. And no Warming Centers opened.

We MUST do better! There is no time to argue policies and politics when hundreds, if not thousands of lives are at stake. The human right to housing has been affirmed by Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed by Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights on January 26, 2021 called for the County of Sonoma and the City of Santa Rosa to “provide Covid-19 safe winter shelter warming tents, sanitation” and other necessities to those who are unsheltered, to which there has been no reply. On June 22, 2021, the Commission on Human Rights also passed a resolution, declaring that homelessness in Sonoma County has become a Public Health Emergency.

There are some 3,000 unhoused people in Sonoma County but only 1,000 shelter beds. However, some 2,000 unsheltered persons still have not been provided with such life-sustaining necessities, have no legal place to rest and are thusly forced to live outdoors and are again facing another winter with freezing and below freezing temperatures.

Under the December 10, 2021 headline “Sonoma County Health Officials Issue Freeze Warning – Shelter Capacities Increased to Protect the Unhoused,” authorities warned that County residents should “limit time outdoors, as serious medical conditions including hypothermia and frostbite can develop with prolonged cold weather exposure,” followed by an announcement that Sonoma County’s system of care partners with local service providers to offer winter shelter bed space, or other sleeping alternatives where shelters are not available, 53 additional winter beds will be offered by County nonprofits. This is in addition to year-round shelters, and helps protect community members from the harshest

weather during the winter.

The County Department of Emergency Management in early December 2021, also issued under a separate red emergency banner “Emergency Readiness, Response & Recovery – Winter Storms and Extreme Cold,” warning that “Frost or Freeze warnings pose a significant health risk, particularly to the elderly, young children, the unsheltered and those with chronic illness.” When searching for Warming Centers at City of Santa Rosa website, Caritas Village was identified as a location to open this winter. When called on November 16, 2022 by a concerned community member, they mentioned the city has not yet given the order to open, pending “3 consecutive nights reaching below 32 degrees”. Our forecast may not have been accurate in predicting the temps because so far it was recorded that *Monday, November 14 was 31 degrees, Tuesday, November 15 was 32 degrees, and Wednesday, November 16 was 30 degrees.* Three days of freezing and below freezing temperatures and Protocols were not followed.

*Currently CHR will be working with LEAP, COC, and hopefully a Supervisor and a County Council to push for a move in policy that 32 degrees is too cold as a mark to open warming centers.*

It is well established that in times of other emergencies, municipal buildings have been designated in a matter of hours to house and care for large numbers of people such as wildfire victims, complete with food, water, and adequate facilities for the newly homeless.

Therefore the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights formally requests that authorities immediately honor this winter emergency in a humane manner by designating an unspecified number of unused spaces such as the Veterans Memorial Hall and Fairground buildings in Santa Rosa and other such facilities in municipalities throughout the County for the purpose of providing dry, warm places as safe haven and respite to the unsheltered who so desire it for as long as this harsh weather continues, a winter season usually considered to be through March of the subsequent year.

There should be no discrimination ever, especially in an emergency. The resources are available. This issue demands immediate response.

We, The Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights, demand that the Protocols for Emergency Freeze and Cold Warming Centers be revised. The County cannot wait until deadly temperatures are reached before providing lifesaving assistance.

Contact: Katrina Phillips, [k.phillips@tutanota.com](mailto:k.phillips@tutanota.com), 213-254-8870. ✉  
Katrina Phillips is Chair Person of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights



# Are We Ready for a Nuclear Winter?

by *Barry Barnett*

Both sides in the Russia-Ukraine War have committed war crimes and atrocities. But there has been an escalation since my three-part series in the *Peace Press*, issues Apr-May, June-July, Aug-Sept. 2022, detailing how the US pushed Russia into invading after the US overthrew the pro-Russian Ukrainian government, followed by influencing the election of their handpicked opposition pro-West rulers, then the Nazi-proactive Euromaidan, leading to Ukraine bombing its own mostly ethnic Russian citizens in the Eastern Donbas for eight years. This prompted Russian Pres. Putin to invade Ukraine on 2/24/22.

But now Putin, with the military somewhat bogged down after the West (mostly the US) has been sending billions of dollars in high-tech weapons to Ukraine (2/24-9/9/22: \$14.5b - US DoD), has called up 300,000 additional troops, and has resumed bombing Ukraine's capital Kiev, after months of hiatus.

Bad as this is, the specter of nuclear war has been conjured up by both sides. Putin has stated that he may use the nuclear option if the homeland is threatened. And since he has annexed four

*Ukrainian Pres. Zelensky has called for nuclear weapons – which his nation gave up in the 1990s. He has stated that they could make their own.*

oblasts (provinces) in the eastern Donbas, and Ukraine of course is retaliating... well, Putin considers those annexed parts Russian territory. He also mentioned thermonuclear weapons, terrible heat-pressure bombs that kill five different ways (thermobarbaric, really).

Ukrainian Pres. Zelensky has called for nuclear weapons – which his nation gave up in the 1990s. He has stated that they could make their own.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stressed at a conference in Brussels on Oct. 13, 2022, that the circumstances in which NATO allies might have to resort to nuclear weapons are “extremely remote,” but Russia would face “severe consequences” if it uses such means against Ukraine.

This is a frightful scenario. Stoltenberg did also say, “... a nuclear war cannot be won, and should never be fought.”

## NUCLEAR WINTER

That is a true statement (for once). As our well-informed *Peace Press* readers are certainly aware, a nuclear exchange can cause radioactive fallout in a blanket of poisonous dust, gases and smoke from thermonuclear-caused widespread wildfires further heated by the Sun and lifted into the stratosphere, covering much or all of the Earth. Like a super-volcano, this blots out the Sun for several years. Temperatures can plunge 15-25 degrees C (27-45 F).

Roots Action founder Norman Solomon spoke several times during the week of Oct. 16-22 on KPFA radio, saying that a nuclear

exchange can result in a blackout of solar radiation that could cause the deaths of 99% of the human population within several months. Food could not be grown.

## NO SUCH THING AS A TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON

The US, well known to have been the only nation ever to have dropped atomic weapons on populations – twice, on large Japanese civilian cities – is spending a projected \$634 billion on “upgrading” its nuclear forces and delivery systems over the ten years between 2021 and 2030.

The idea of “tactical” nuclear weapons is one of short-range, supposedly low yield bombs that can be used on the battlefield in military situations – each bomb costing only \$28 million, incidentally. Some are relatively small, but most modern tactical warheads are tens or even 200 kilotons of TNT (tri-nitro-toluene) equivalent, much more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many people do not know that the neutron bomb is a smaller thermonuclear device. But it's common knowledge that it has “enhanced” ionizing radiation discharge with much lower blast force.

As it's been said, with a neutron bomb, you kill the people but leave the real estate alone – the perfect capitalist bomb.

If I may be blunt, my opinion of anyone considering using nuclear weapons is that that person is insane – deluded about the reality of the extremely dangerous mass destruction. These weapons should be eliminated, in a step-by-step process that leads to zero (maybe one inactivated one in a museum, a cautionary educational exhibit).

## ATOMIC WEAPONS ARE ILLEGAL

Fortunately, the international treaty making nuclear weapons illegal has been ratified, and is now in force as international law. Unfortunately, the Nine terrorist nations possessing nuclear weapons (like the Nazgûl, terrifying, evil powers; cf. Lord of the Rings) flaunt this law: US, UK, France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, N. Korea, and the open secret of Israel having the bomb.

I have written a letter to Pres. Vladimir Putin urging him not to use nuclear weapons ever under any circumstances. I don't expect a reply. But I felt it necessary to do so. I have been doing antinuclear protest since 1980, with other activists. As I wrote in the *Bohemian*, then heard Prof. Noam Chomsky say virtually the same thing, the two most dangerous concerns we all have to work toward mitigating are the environmental crisis and the threat of nuclear war. All of us on Earth are joined in this rising danger, and need to do everything we can on all levels to protect this planet and all life on it.

Sources: Department Moves Quick to Replenish Weapons Sent to Ukraine, C. Todd Lopez, DOD News 9/9/22; Circumstances in which NATO would use nuclear weapons “extremely remote,” Stoltenberg says, Euronews 10/14/22; Tactical Nuclear Weapons, Wikipedia; Neutron Bomb, Wikipedia; KPFA News, 2/24/22-10/22/22. 🐦 Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional, and musician, living on the left coast of the US Empire. You can follow him on Twitter, [CounterPunch.org/archives-author's name, his website, with ~100 articles, political fantasy stories, poetry, and much satire/humor, all free of charge to read, at Patreon.com/BarryBarnett](https://CounterPunch.org/archives-author's-name,-his-website,-with-~100-articles,-political-fantasy-stories,-poetry,-and-much-satire/humor,-all-free-of-charge-to-read,-at-Patreon.com/BarryBarnett). Feedback welcome at [barrymuse123@gmail.com](mailto:barrymuse123@gmail.com).

# Nukes in the Middle East

by Rebel Fagin

From time to time, I receive pleas to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons and keep the Middle East a nuclear free zone. However, it's much too late to have a nuclear free Middle East and it's not Iran who's to blame.

Deep in the Negev Desert, Israel began construction of a secret nuclear facility near the outpost of Dimona in 1958. This was accomplished with aid from France, itself a nuclear armed nation.

The Dimona nuclear reactor facility, now called the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center, is officially a research center, yet six levels below ground lies a top secret nuclear enhancing facility. Here they enrich plutonium to 93% or more for use in nuclear bombs. Israel is thought to possess anywhere from 80 - 400 nuclear warheads. This is why Israel refuses to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Air space around the facility is restricted. They did allow US inspectors for the above ground facility back in the early 60s, however inspectors had to tell them they were coming so Israel could prepare. The US quit inspecting under these conditions in the late 60s.

Israel likely became the 6th nation with nuclear weapons capability in 1966, just prior to the 6-Day-War in 1967.

Nuclear weapons need a delivery system and Israel has a triad defense system. They can arm Jericho missiles with a range of 5,000 – 6,000 kilometers. They can arm their submarines and they can place nuclear armed missiles on jets. This way a first strike is unlikely to totally disarm Israel of nuclear war capability.

In 1979 Israel, working in collaboration with South Africa, likely

tested the bomb off the Prince Edward Islands located just south of South Africa in the Indian Ocean. South Africa is suspected of possessing 6 nuclear weapons.

In 2021, the International Panel on Fissile Materials at Princeton reported, "significant new construction" that was thought to have begun in 2019. Israel refuses to allow the UN International Atomic Energy Agency permission to inspect their facility. In the 1980's biophysicist and future president of Israel, Ephraim Katzir, revealed the existence of the facility with a slip of the tongue during an interview.

What we know about this secret nuclear facility we learned from an insider; a whistle blower named Mordechai Vanunu. He worked at the facility for 9 years before exposing the below ground top-secret plutonium plant. Vanunu also stated that this facility allows Israel to produce 20 kilograms of plutonium a year. This is enough plutonium for 2 ½ bombs a year.

Vanunu fled to Australia after revealing Israel's secret in 1986. Israeli spies went after him, kidnapping him and bringing him to Israel where he was tried and sentenced to 18 years in jail, 11 ½ in solitary confinement. Israeli officials claim that kidnapping, in this case, is not a crime. That Israel has a right to kidnap Vanunu to avoid a second Holocaust.

Israel is currently the only nation in the Middle East with nuclear weapons and the systems necessary to deliver them. There is no nuclear free Middle East. 🌿

Sources: 60 Minutes Australia, nti.org 1/26/22, theguardian.com 1/15/14, defensenews.com 2/26/21, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine © 2006 Ilan Pappé

# Israeli Voters Elect a Far Right Government

by Lois Pearlman

What does the recent election in which the majority of Israelis turned out for an ultra right-wing government really mean? The short answer is business as usual. Under the current "centrist" government Israeli Defense Force soldiers are already killing and imprisoning Palestinians on pretty much a daily basis. And Jewish Israeli settlers in the illegal West Bank settlements attack unarmed Palestinians with IDF soldiers watching on. How much worse could it get under the new ultra right wing government?

This, of course, is the opinion of Palestinian activists, like myself, and does not reflect what the election means to everyone. But before I get into the possible silver lining in the Nov. 1, 2022 election, let's take a look at Israel's form of government, what shape their elections take based on this form, and what the actual numbers were when the election results were finalized Nov. 3.

Since its inception in 1948 Israel has had a parliamentary form of government. A parliamentary government includes the typical three branches – executive, legislative and judicial, but they are not really separate like in the presidential form of government. Voters choose the legislature, which is called the Knesset in Israel, not by voting for individuals, but by voting for parties and each party has its own list of prospective Knesset members.

Based on the percentage of the general vote each party receives, they choose the new Knesset members from their lists. Then the

new Knesset members choose the prime minister, who is the actual head of the executive branch of the government. And the new prime minister forms the cabinet of ministers.

So which of these parties won the most votes in the Nov. 1 election and how does that equate to what people are calling the most ultra right wing government ever to rule Israel? Out of 120 seats former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ultra nationalist allies won 64, The current prime minister Yair Lapid and his allies won 51 and smaller Israeli Arab parties took the rest.

That means Netanyahu, who is currently on trial for corruption, is the new prime minister, and will be able to form a government and pick his own cabinet members. Netanyahu, of course, owes his victory to the religious right parties, the Jewish Power party, led by Itamar Ben Gvir and the Religious Zionism party led by Bezalel Smotrich. And who are these ultra right wing newcomers to the national political scene, Ben Gvir and Smotrich? Nationally syndicated *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman describes them thusly:

Ben Gvir was convicted by an Israeli court in 2007 of incitement to racism and supporting a Jewish terrorist organization. Smotrich, among other things, has suggested that Jewish Israeli mothers should be separated from Palestinian Israeli mothers in the maternity wards of Israeli hospitals. And he has long advocated outright

*Israeli Voters...see page 11*



# Immigrants Subsidize Health Care Costs for the Rest of Us

by Sue Gadbois and Terry Winter

Although immigrants use fewer health care services than US-born citizens, some worry that immigrants are a burden to the US economy and particularly to the health care system.

But immigrants, particularly undocumented immigrants, contribute more to the Medicare program (mostly through payroll taxes) than Medicare pays for their health care, thereby prolonging the life of the Medicare Trust Fund.

Similarly, private health insurance premiums paid by immigrants (and by employers on their behalf) exceed the amounts private insurance plans pay for their care.

And in the case of Medicaid (called “MediCal” in California), a new study\* of 210,000 people, published in November in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that immigrants and US-born citizens paid similar amounts in premiums and taxes related to healthcare, but that immigrants, particularly undocumented immigrants, consume less health care than the care for which they pay. This is particularly pronounced for undocumented immigrants, whose contributions to healthcare costs exceeded their expenditures by an average of \$4,400 per person per year.

This is clear evidence that immigrants (especially undocumented immigrants) subsidize healthcare of other US residents, suggesting that widespread concerns that immigrants deplete healthcare resources are unfounded.

\*Ommerborn, M, Ranker, L, et. al.; Assessment of Immigrants’ Premium and Tax Payments for Health Care and the Costs of Their Care; *Journal of the American Medical Association*, JAMA Network Open; 11/9/22.

Table 4. Contributions to and Expenditures From Third-Party Payers, by Payer, Among Immigrants and US-Born Citizens, 2017

Group	Amount (95% CI), \$ in billions		
	Contribution	Expenditure	Net contribution <sup>a</sup>
<b>All immigrants</b>			
Medicare	98.0 (95.5 to 100.4)	84.2 (69.4 to 99.0)	13.7 (-1.3 to 28.7)
Private	100.6 (96.3 to 105.0)	61.4 (52.1 to 70.6)	39.3 (29.1 to 49.5)
Medicaid	84.1 (81.5 to 86.6)	73.8 (71.6 to 76.0)	10.2 (6.9 to 13.6)
Uncompensated care	5.5 (4.7 to 6.2)	10.4 <sup>b</sup>	-4.9 (-5.7 to -4.1) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Citizen immigrants</b>			
Medicare	58.2 (56.2 to 60.1)	67.8 (53.7 to 82.0)	-9.6 (-23.9 to 4.6)
Private	58.7 (55.6 to 61.8)	43.3 (34.8 to 51.7)	15.4 (6.4 to 24.4)
Medicaid	45.8 (44.0 to 47.7)	47.8 (45.8 to 49.8)	-2.0 (-4.7 to 0.7)
Uncompensated care	3.1 (2.8 to 3.5)	2.6 <sup>b</sup>	0.5 (0.2 to 0.8) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Documented noncitizen immigrants</b>			
Medicare	18.9 (18.0 to 19.8)	16.4 (11.8 to 20.9)	2.5 (-2.1 to 7.2)
Private	20.8 (19.1 to 22.6)	11.7 (9.1 to 14.2)	9.2 (6.1 to 12.3)
Medicaid	16.9 (15.9 to 17.9)	26.0 (25.0 to 26.9)	-9.1 (-10.4 to -7.7)
Uncompensated care	1.1 (1.0 to 1.2)	1.6 <sup>b</sup>	-0.6 (-0.6 to -0.5) <sup>c</sup>
<b>Undocumented immigrants</b>			
Medicare	20.9 (19.8 to 21.9)	0.04 (0.0 to 0.1)	20.8 (19.7 to 21.9)
Private	21.1 (18.9 to 23.4)	6.4 (3.2 to 9.7)	14.7 (10.7 to 18.6)
Medicaid	21.3 (19.8 to 22.8)	0.1 (0.1 to 0.1)	21.3 (19.8 to 22.8)
Uncompensated care	1.2 (1.1 to 1.3)	6.1 <sup>b</sup>	-4.9 (-5.0 to -4.8) <sup>c</sup>
<b>US-born citizens</b>			
Medicare	615.7 (609.2 to 622.3)	634.9 (595.2 to 674.6)	-19.2 (-59.5 to 21.1)
Private	599.9 (584.6 to 615.3)	639.2 (587.4 to 691.0)	-39.3 (-93.3 to 14.7)
Medicaid	492.6 (486.9 to 498.3)	506.3 (500.1 to 512.4)	-13.7 (-22.1 to -5.2)
Uncompensated care	32.9 (17.8 to 48.1)	28.0 <sup>b</sup>	4.9 (-10.2 to 20.0) <sup>c</sup>

Prepared by Sue Gadbois and Terry Winter of the Healthcare for All Working Group, Working for Healthcare Justice through a Single-Payer System, a Sonoma County partnership of North Bay Jobs with Justice and Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment (HPEACE) [healthcareforallsonoma@gmail.com](mailto:healthcareforallsonoma@gmail.com)

## Israeli Voters Elect a Far Right Government... from page 10

Israeli annexation of the West Bank and argued that there is no such thing as “Jewish terrorism.” Netanyahu personally forged an alliance between these two men, according to Friedman, thus giving Netanyahu the allies his Likud party needed to win a parliamentary majority.

Now that I have outlined the players and the playing field, let’s take a look at what this ultra right wing victory means to Palestinians and their allies and also to the people who have formed the backbone of support for Israel, American Jews and their allies.

Calling his Nov. 4 column in the *New York Times*, “The Israel I Knew is Gone,” Friedman, a “liberal” Zionist who has been a consistent cheerleader for Israel for some 40 years, believes this new ultra right wing government has crossed the line and will make it harder for Americans and American politicians to see Israel as an ally with “shared values.”

“This is going to have a profound effect on US-Israel relations,” he said. Then he went on to quote his long time friend and traveling companion Nahum Barnea, who said in a phone conversation, “we have a different kind of Israel now.”

This, vision of a “different Israel” is one that Friedman and Barnea are likely to share with many Americans, who have been led to believe that Israel could do no wrong because the Jews supposedly

deserve their own country after the genuine oppression we have suffered over the centuries, primarily in Europe. I say “we” because, like Friedman, I am Jewish.

Another Jewish-American journalist, Philip Weiss who is co-founder of the pro-Palestine online newspaper, “Mondoweiss,” acknowledges the importance of Friedman finally seeing the light, and goes on to say that “the Israel that we knew is gone is true for liberal-minded Jewish supporters of Israel, but not for Palestinians.”

“No,” he said, “the Israel Palestinians know is the same. It is about American Jews. They are finally catching a clue. This is the importance of last week’s election... The new ugly Israel will alienate American Jews.”

And this is the silver lining that supporters of Palestine, and of human rights in general, hope will come from the horror of the ultra nationalist right wing take-over of the Israeli government. Not that Palestinians will suddenly find themselves under attack, because they have been under attack by the Zionists for over 70 years, but that people of good will in other countries will finally see that the emperor has no clothes.

“The war over Zionism inside American Jewish life has begun,” Philip said. And, as an American Jew who supports freedom and equality for all the people of Palestine/Israel, I hope he is right. 🌿

## War Is Not The Answer... from page 1

wrought a lot of destruction here at home.)

Second, was a lesson learned long ago. After World War I, Great Britain and the United States humiliated Germany and refused to lend a helping hand. The resulting desperation led to the rise of fascism in Germany, which required another war. The US learned that more could be gained by being an ally of Germany and of helping it recover from the war. But now there was a War Industry (that it's a "Defense" Industry is, of course, a farce) to feed. Which meant an enemy was a perennial necessity. Russia became that convenient enemy. Much could have been gained by accepting Russia as an ally. There was talk about it after the Soviet Union disintegrated. But it didn't suit the War Industry or the succession of presidents in the industry's pocket. "We" have learned to create the conditions that foster wars.

So, here we are. The US has backed Russia into a corner and Putin sees an existential threat to his country. The early raping of Russia's economy by corporations, the coup in Ukraine, the placement of bases and missiles at Russia's borders and so much more are too much for this article. Though once reported upon by *The New York Times* et. al., none of that is acknowledged anymore. Once you could read that Congress banned any aid going to the fascist Azov Battalion in Ukraine – that law is still on the books – but now that Azov has been absorbed into Ukrainian military, you won't find any of that in the *NYT*, *WashPo*, etc. That history has been conveniently rewritten or obliterated and not by the Far Right.

And the messages are so contradictory as to make one's head spin and yet, few are spinning. "Russia is moving to take over Europe!" "The Russian military is so weak that it is losing this war." Well, which is it? "Putin is a madman with nuclear weapons!" "Let's refuse to negotiate and see how far we can push him!" Does that make any sense?

And here in Sonoma County? Those who once had "War is not the answer" signs in their yards and on their bumpers are now suggesting that war may be the answer, after all. What happened?

I have a theory. Much of the membership of the "Peace Movement" grew up during the Cold War. Russia as the ultimate enemy has been imprinted on our brains. And lest we forget that message, Hillary Clinton revived it with her message that she lost because Russia meddles in US elections (so far unproven) with no mention that this country has meddled in more foreign elections than any other country has ever dreamed of (including in Russia). So, when the time was right, the older generations basically experienced PTSD based upon the trauma experienced during the Cold War. Just say the name "Russia" and all the old fears, many of them baseless, came flooding back. It's kneejerk.

And what do I know about PTSD from my friends in Veterans For Peace? I know that it is denied, at least at first and sometimes forever. I believe very strongly that you can't solve a problem until you actually understand what caused it. That means understanding both the roots of the PTSD and what really led to the war in Ukraine. When you understand these two things, you'll realize that you've been lied to. Remember the CIA and its secret budget? Remember that former CIA Director William Casey said that they would have done their job when everything Americans "know" is wrong?

Once you see deeply into a problem and the lies that cloud it, you are free. You're free to imagine everything else that is possible. You're free to envision negotiations and cooperation with Russia.

You're free to remember that the *Peace Press* has always advocated words over weapons. You're free to see that war is still not the answer.

It's time to come back home to the Peace Movement.

Note: US aid to Ukraine totals \$68 billion, and the White House has just asked Congress for another \$37.7 billion, for a projected total of \$105.5 billion.\*

Russia's military spending in 2021 was \$66 billion, says the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The US military budget is \$801 billion a year. This does not include secret billions for the CIA, etc.

This means that the US (not counting other countries) has already given Ukraine money exceeding the annual military budget of Russia. If the additional money is approved, it will exceed 150% of Russia's budget.

\*Center for Strategic and International Studies 🙌

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

by Rebel Fagin

O little town of Bethlehem  
With walls twenty-six feet high  
Outside the holy family gathers  
Watching The Star go by  
In the dark streets below  
The family must wait  
For the young Israeli soldier  
To open up the gate

For Christ is born of Mary  
This sweet and frigid night  
The family can't reach the manger  
Their I.D.s just aren't right  
Oh morning stars together  
Celebrate the birth so great  
If only the holy family  
Could get in through the gate

How silently, how silently  
The holy family waits  
An early cock crows the dawn  
As sunrise hits the gates  
No ears to hear their pleas  
There is no way to win  
Of mighty guards of the checkpoint  
Please soldiers let us in

Oh holy Child of Bethlehem  
Trapped all round by the wall  
How will we go forward in peace  
How will we go at all  
We hear the Christmas angels  
Trumpet a joyous sound  
Reminding us all once again  
That all walls do come down



## Justice for Andy

by *Magick Altman, 1-7-14*

(Read at the 9th anniversary of the killing of Andy Lopez by So.Co. Sheriff Deputy Erick Gelhaus.)

When a mother births a child  
she sends dreams of the future  
into the world  
And when that child  
is killed in cold blood,  
all the dreams blow back  
in her face with a gale force,  
like a fire  
out of the gates of hell.  
All Andy's dreams now weigh  
on his mother and father to fulfill  
and she is asking us to help her.

We are mothers and grandmothers.  
we never want to experience what Sujey  
is feeling.  
but still when we hear the news of another child  
dead at the hands of the state,  
we must dip our toes into that fathomless,  
dark pool of grief, to empathize, to bear witness,  
but we cannot drown there,  
nor let our sister, Sujey, drown there  
It is the worst nightmare of every mother  
who ever lived, it is against the order of things

and you hide Gelhaus behind you  
you let him continue to be silent  
you have shut down your meetings,  
called out snipers and riot police  
scaring Andy's young friends, filled with grief and disbelief,  
That their friend is dead, that a piece of them  
died that day, too.

A man, a man with dignity,  
would come here and beg  
for forgiveness,  
own his actions,  
look into the eyes of Sujey.  
and know the pain she is feeling.  
You too, need to own your responsibility  
in this travesty,  
Own that our system is broken  
while Latinos are called  
Illegal, called Alien,  
Constantly living with fear and intimidation  
until what was unthinkable became inevitable  
the shocking finality of a murdered child.

You are afraid too,  
afraid because  
you know how wrong this is,  
know that a wildfire of truth  
a brigade of our youth  
will not relent  
until Andy can truly rest in peace,  
Until we together do everything in our power  
to protect his friends and their bright and fragile futures

We do not care about your  
procedures, they have allowed Gelhaus to return to work  
while a family  
has a bullet hole through their hearts

grief creates a mighty anger,  
grief creates a fierce desire.  
grief creates a mighty fire  
that tears alone cannot extinguish.

We demand Justice for Andy  
Do not sit silent before us  
open your hearts and speak!

---

## Veterans Day

by *Gail King*

there aren't many left  
old poets  
old soldiers  
brought to mind on Veterans Day

I go to visit my father  
ashes now but in a place of water noises  
handsome plants  
and gothic archways

my grandfather's war was the first  
my father's war was the second  
neither ever fought  
left with their sanity  
raised happy hopeful children  
still believed in the good life

not many left  
now soldiers more prone to suicide than battle wounds  
wounded more deeply  
some day there won't be many left

old poet's words strung like pearls on a page and we dive  
old soldiers in caps, with walkers, still tear up at a flag  
remember the fallen

old poet who nursed us back  
sings to himself a savage song  
while the world of gain and appearance and mirth goes on

---



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*Volunteer on a Peace Team to the West Bank for 3-5 weeks*

Meta Peace Team has been invited to place international peace teams in the West Bank by Palestinians who are committed to nonviolence, striving for justice and ending the occupation. Team members will be prepared through extensive training prior to departure; they are taught human rights monitoring and reporting, protective accompaniment, other creative tools of nonviolence, and the culture and history of Palestine/Israel. Living conditions might include staying in Palestinian homes or may be more basic.

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Application Deadline **February 14th 2023**

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Application Deadline **May 17th 2023**

### **Suggested Donation:**

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50 D St., Ste. 120A, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 576-2771, Fax: (707) 576-2773

[Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov](http://Senator.McGuire@sen.ca.gov)**Assemblymember Marc Levine**

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11 English Street, Petaluma, CA 94952

Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735

Rattigan State Building, Santa Rosa

50 D Street, Suite 301, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Tel: (707) 576-2631, Fax: (707) 576-2735

**Assemblymember Jim Wood**

50 D Street, Suite 450, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 576-2526, Fax: (707) 576-2297

California Assembly Website: [assembly.ca.gov](http://assembly.ca.gov)**U.S. Representative Jared Huffman**

1630 Longworth Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-5161, 202-225-5163 (Fax)

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**Occupy Sonoma County** – Embraces the egalitarian, deep democracy principles of the Occupy Movement with a regional strategy for effectively organizing county-wide social justice campaigns that are globally relevant. 877-6650, [OccupySonomaCounty.org](http://OccupySonomaCounty.org)**Organizing for Action:** Progressive organizing project. Contact Linda Hemenway: [whatisworking@gmail.com](mailto:whatisworking@gmail.com) or 707-843-6110 and Facebook**Peace Alliance** – Mission is to campaign for a cabinet-level US Department of Peace. 838-8647, [maggik3@sonic.net](mailto:maggik3@sonic.net), [thepeacealliance.org](http://thepeacealliance.org)**Peace Roots Alliance** – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 765-0196, [Linda@peaceroots.org](http://Linda@peaceroots.org)**Petaluma Blacks for Community Development** – [facebook.com/pb4cd](http://facebook.com/pb4cd)**Petaluma Progressives** – Grassroots, political education and action group. Producers of the Progressive Festival. 763-8134, [info@progressivefestival.org](mailto:info@progressivefestival.org)**Praxis Peace Institute** – Peace Education organization, 939-2973, [praxispeace.org](http://praxispeace.org)**Progressive Sonoma** – Peaceful Resistance Network. An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. [peacefulresistance9.wixsite.com/progressivesonoma](http://peacefulresistance9.wixsite.com/progressivesonoma). Facebook at Peaceful Resistance Sonoma**Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation** – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. [Mickey@projectcensored.org](mailto:Mickey@projectcensored.org). [projectcensored.org](http://projectcensored.org).**Racial Justice Allies** – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 [racialjusticeallies@gmail.com](mailto:racialjusticeallies@gmail.com), [www.racialjusticeallies.org](http://www.racialjusticeallies.org)**Sonoma County Black Forum:** Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. [sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com](mailto:sonomacountyblackforum@gmail.com)**Physicians for a National Health Program, Sonoma County** (PNHP). In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. [sngold@juno.com](mailto:sngold@juno.com). [pnhpca.org](http://pnhpca.org).**Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCo CAN!)** Groups and individuals working address and reverse climate change. Meet in months with a 5th Monday, 7-9 PM at the PJ. Info: 595-0320 or [SonomaCountyCAN@gmail.com](mailto:SonomaCountyCAN@gmail.com) (email preferred).**Sonoma County Coastal Hills:** [gardens@mcn.org](mailto:gardens@mcn.org)**Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective** offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. [soconvtc@gmail.com](mailto:soconvtc@gmail.com).**Sonoma County Resistance** via [change.org](http://change.org)**Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock** – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. [SonomaSolidarity.org](http://SonomaSolidarity.org), [facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL](http://facebook.com/SonomaNoDAPL). 792-4422.**Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice** – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. [audreyvh@sbglobal.net](mailto:audreyvh@sbglobal.net)**Sunrise Movement, Sonoma County Hub** – Our hub believes in the power of mobilizing youth, taking direct and indirect action, building political power, civic engagement, and partnerships. More info: [www.sunrisesoco.org](http://www.sunrisesoco.org) and [facebook.com/SunriseSoCo](http://facebook.com/SunriseSoCo)**SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County)** – [facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty](http://facebook.com/SURJSonomaCounty)**United Farm Workers** – 1700 Corby Ave., Santa Rosa 528-3039**United Nations Association** – Builds public understanding and support for the United Nations. Facebook**Veterans for Peace** – Organization of vets working together for peace and justice through nonviolence. 536-6002**Women in Black** – Women who stand in silent vigil to protest war and human rights abuses.**Women's Justice Center** – Advocacy for victims of rape, domestic violence, and child abuse, particularly in the Latina community. 575-3150, [justicewomen.com](http://justicewomen.com)**For additions or changes to this list, please email [zenekar2@gmail.com](mailto:zenekar2@gmail.com) "PEACE PRESS" on Subject line.**

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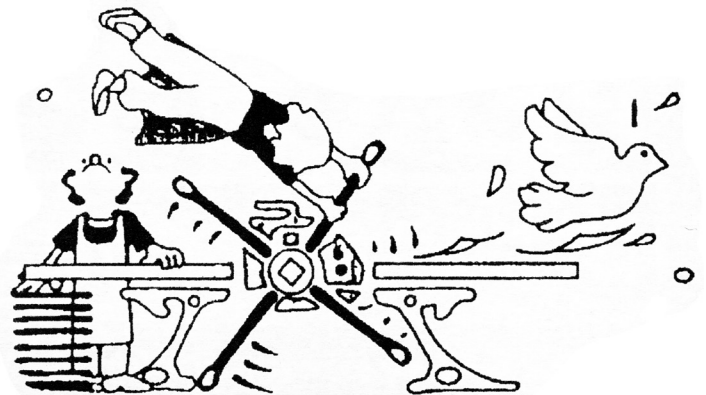
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