

SONOMA COUNTY

peace press

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ **PJC Awards Online Event
Saturday, Nov. 13**
- ▶ 'Three Seconds in October...'
The Truth Comes Out
- ▶ The 2 Americas (US)
- ▶ Leaving Vietnam – Again

...and more

WHO RULES

THE WORLD?

WHY DO WE

LET THEM?!

Newsletter of the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County,
an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).
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SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline for Oct/Nov issue: November 12, 2021

Email articles in MSWord to peacentr@sonic.net

Word limit up to 700 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.

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 peacentr@sonic.net

Include CALENDAR (in caps) on subject line.

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Classifieds: 50¢ per word, \$5 minimum

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FRONT COVER by A.A.Nagy - "Who Rules the World? Why Do We Let Them?!"

is a refrain from a speech by Sabina Virgo (May 3, 1943 – March 29, 2020),
Labor and Social Justice Activist.

CARTOONS Khalil Bendib, studiobendib.com, bendib.com, otherwords.org

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To receive the PJC
weekly Social Justice
email calendar,
call 707-575-8902

The PJC is OPEN
M-F, 1-4 pm
Call for appointment



PJC Events and Online Auction

Shekeyna Black

It is with great gratitude and joy that the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County has officially reopened after the 18 month closure due to the pandemic. We had a Reopening outdoor “mixer” in our parking lot on Sept. 14 so that people could interact in person in a safe, COVID compliant way. DJ Loisaida played some tunes to help boost the celebratory mood. It feels great to be back in the building after such a long time away. Office Hours are 1 to 4 pm Monday–Friday. Appointments required and can be scheduled via phone or email. (707) 575-8902 or peacentr@sonic.net

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Peace & Justice Center’s Annual Awards! We were unable to have the Awards presentation in 2020 due to the COVID restrictions. The PJC Board decided it would be best this year to host the Awards presentation online only, with the hope that we can have an in person event in 2022. The Peace & Justice Center’s Annual Awards presentation will premiere online on Saturday, Nov. 13 at 7:00 pm. We are accepting donations, in any amount, to attend this online event because the Awards presentation is our major fundraiser of the year.

Here is the link to register for the online event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peace-justice-centers-annual-awards-presentation-fundraiser-tickets-178482053627>

Additionally, we are having an online auction at <https://www.32auctions.com/PJCauction2021> as part of the fundraiser for the Annual Awards presentation. Typically, in past years, we would host a Silent Auction at the in person Annual Awards event. We hope you enjoy perusing all the wonderful auction items that have been donated by generous individuals and businesses.

In addition to speeches by the awardees, there will also be uplifting music by Kyle Craft and Joshua Bluegreen-Cripps accompanied by a keyboardist. Learn more about the musicians at: (<https://kylecraftviolinist.com>) (<https://www.facebook.com/JoshuaBluegreen/>)

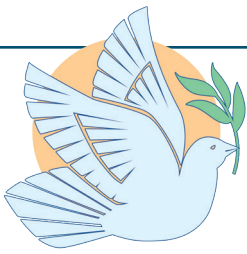


The PJC adds a message of social justice and peace to the Winterblast. Advisory Board member, Alice Waco pictured on our sofa on wheels, rolling down the street in a previous Winterblast parade.

Winterblast returns to the South of A (SOFA) Arts District in Santa Rosa on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 5 to 9:30 pm. Winterblast is a free family-friendly event that takes place in the (SOFA) Arts District annually in Santa Rosa. The highlight of Winterblast are the SOFA Parade. Individuals and businesses decorate “sofas” (loveseat size) and push them down the street two times during the Winterblast festivities. DJ Loisaida will be playing some great music near the beer/wine garden in the PJC’s parking lot during Winterblast. Shady Oak Barrel House is generously donating beer for the PJC to sell during the event. Check out their website at: www.ShadyOakBarrelHouse.com. Additionally, there will be wine and bottled water for sale. All proceeds benefit this nonprofit organization. Also, be sure to check out [Journey of the Saber](#) demonstration and [Rileystreet Art Supply](#) hands-on art project for kids in the street in front of the Peace & Justice Center!

We appreciate everyone who helps sustain the PJC and our mission “to inform, support and energize the Sonoma County community to create peace and social justice through active nonviolence.” 🙌

**THE PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT WILL PREMIERE ONLINE, SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 7:00 PM.
READ ABOUT THE AWARD RECIPIENTS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.**



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER

Annual Awards for 2021

Peace & Justice Activist of the Year Award

An individual with a passion for working for peace and social justice, who makes a significant contribution that makes a difference to the Sonoma County community and beyond.

The Award goes to D'mitra Smith

D'mitra Smith was the Vice Chair and Chair of the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights from 2012-2020. She was the program manager for the Junior Commission on Human Rights, mentoring over 100 Sonoma County students. D'mitra is a co-founder of [Save Your VI](#), providing education and advocacy for BIPOC students through Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and a founding member of the essential workers' collective in Sonoma Valley, Food for All – [Comida para Todos](#).



In 2017, she directed "[Humans of Sonoma County](#)" to counteract the bigotry of the incoming Trump administration, the first DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) messaging in the county. D'mitra is the

author of the 2018 [report](#) "Discrimination and Bullying in our Schools", the first to address racial discrimination in schools in the county. That same year she authored a Title VI [complaint](#) against the Napa State Hospital addressing discriminatory treatment of Black patients within the state hospital system in partnership with the Sacramento NAACP and Justice Reform Coalition, and advocated for Black students in [Oklahoma](#) and [Alabama](#).

In 2020, she co-authored the groundbreaking [report](#) "Human Rights Violations in Santa Rosa: Policing the Black Lives Matter Protests", garnering an award from the San Jose State Human Rights Institute. She dedicated the Commission's funding to PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the most vulnerable communities affected by Covid-2019 and spearheaded the Sonoma County Human Rights Visibility Project, an online [reporting](#) tool for human rights violations in eighteen languages, the first of its kind in the state.

D'mitra has worked with the California Association of Human Relations Organizations, the Congressional Black Caucus Education and Workforce Committee, California NAACP, San Jose State University Human Rights Institute, Southern Poverty Law Center, John Marshall Law School, and the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. In her time on the Commission, she authored reports and resolutions to lobby the Board of Supervisors on many issues including Andy Lopez, the Dakota Access Pipeline, Indigenous Peoples Day, Rights of the Muslim Com-

munity, Immigrants' Rights, Tiny Homes and Emergency Housing, Unsheltered Encampment Conditions, County Censorship of the Commission, Family Separation, Divestment, and Homeless Youth. She is the originator and co-author of AB655, The California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform [CLEAR Act](#) (Kalra), the first legislation to address white supremacist infiltration of law enforcement in the state of California. 🙏

Russ & Mary Jorgensen* Courage of Commitment Award

A person from Sonoma County with a passion for working for peace and social justice, who performs acts of courage to make a difference, often at their own personal risk.

*According to [The Union](#), "At the calling of Martin Luther King Jr., Mary and her husband Russell Jorgensen joined what became known as the 'Freedom Riders.' They were both arrested for desegregating a restaurant in Jackson, Miss., and served a week's sentence in the Jackson County jail. The Jorgensens helped establish an 'intentional community' just outside of Santa Rosa called Monan's Rill in 1973. It has been a model community of its type for many years."

The Award goes to Audrianna Jones

Audrianna Jones is a 32 year old Sonoma County resident who has a growing passion for helping others. After a successful career in the restaurant industry, she decided to venture into the nonprofit arena by developing her skills in food rescuing, cooking for large groups, food safety, volunteer retention, green trashing methods, and many new social services.

Audrianna earned a certificate in social and racial justice from the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI) in 2021 and was elected as a commencement speaker by her peers. The BCLI trains leaders committed to advancing social justice, helps them get onto local and regional boards and commissions, and provides individualized support throughout their commission service. Urban Habitat has built a robust and highly engaged BCLI alumni network. Alumni help one another as they navigate the halls of power and its unique dynamics. They share best practices and mutual support throughout the year to ensure that their actions result in government accountability and responsiveness to low-income communities of color.

On behalf of the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County where she has served as a Board Member for several years, Audrianna organized a warm clothing and sleeping bag donation drive during Winter 2020/2021 to help the homeless people living in encampments and on the streets of Santa Rosa. Additionally, she facilitated the preparation and delivery of six hot soup and sandwich dinners to houseless people during the pandemic lockdown with the support and encouragement from the PJC board,



Annual Awards...continues on page 3

Annual Awards ...continued from page 2

mentoring from Rebel Fagin, cooking from Ian Murray, and many tasks from dedicated volunteers.

Recently, she has begun work for housing justice for the County of Sonoma, continuing to incorporate herself more in the community. The Sonoma County Housing Authority (SCHA) is an award-winning local public agency that provides safe, decent and quality affordable housing and supportive services to eligible persons with limited incomes.

Ms. Jones remains courageously committed to finding ways to support those in need. Visit: www.picsoco.org and www.urbanhabitat.org/leadership/bcli



Unsung Hero Award

A person from Sonoma County who works diligently for peace and social justice, but stays in the background, out of the limelight.

The Award goes to Mary Munat

Mary Munat was born to environmentally and socially progressive parents in 1961 in New York City and landed right at the base of that tree, infused with a will to do good in the world. Moving from New York, she grew up in rural Vermont, where being an environmental-

ist wasn't a label, it was simply a way of life. There was no trash service and everyone sorted all their waste at the community transfer station down to the nubbins to save natural resources AND money!

In 2000, Mary was working as the human resources manager and volunteer coordinator at the Health and Harmony Festival in Santa Rosa, where she heard Julia Butterfly-Hill speak on behalf of the planet and shared her experience as a tree-sitter. The dots connected for Mary then and there, and she committed to devising an event waste management system that supports the planet more than it enables event planners and resource-users/tossers. This launched her company, "Green Mary" and now 20 years later, event greening is a booming industry.

Standing for and working on behalf of social justice, human rights and animal support are just as paramount in Mary's heart as environmental work. She gives her time freely to endeavors such as food re-distribution, working at encampments for the unhoused, at a local animal shelter where she also fosters dogs into their forever homes, and is trained as a Court-Appointed Special

Advocate for foster youth (CASA). No matter what is going on, she picks up litter wherever she goes, focusing on plastics that wash into our waterways and kill sea birds and sea life.

During COVID, Mary launched a local alliance of Braver Angels through which she and other political activists work to bridge the gap between liberals and conservatives to help fix what ails our sadly divided nation. Recently, she started a nonprofit organization called Goodwerks to help manage and reduce waste in underserved communities and to bring water to encampments for the unhoused. The organization is part of a "Reuse Coalition" that aims to put on fix-it clinics starting early in 2022. Anything to keep vital resources from being tossed in the landfill, repurposing, reimagining, reusing, reducing – she declares that it's all part of a vital way to be fully alive in an incredible world, on a beautiful planet that so beautifully provides for all of us.

Visit: <http://greenmary.com/> and goodwerks.org

Community Organization Award

A local group whose activities have a significant beneficial effect on the well-being of the people of Sonoma County.

The Award goes to Graton Day Labor Center/ALMAS

Centro Laboral de Graton (Graton Day Labor Center)/ALMAS organizes with day laborers, domestic workers and farm workers for their rights and dignity as workers and immigrants. Our mission is to advance and protect the rights of immigrant workers by promoting participatory democratic leadership and worker solidarity, in order to develop greater opportunities for employment, health, education and civic participation.

Our members are at the forefront of the farm worker safety and immigrant rights movements in Sonoma County. Statewide, they are leading the fight to end the exclusion of domestic workers from Cal/OSHA protections and increase protections for all outdoor workers during wildfires.

A bit of history: In 2004, Centro Laboral de Graton established a democratically run hiring process on the street corner where the majority of workers congregated for work. While this was an important first step; workers, volunteers, and residents ultimately realized that facilitating an organized hiring process on the street corner was not enough to address the multiple needs of day laborers. Volunteers spearheaded the effort to develop a site for workers. In 2007, workers, organizers and the community

Continues on page 4



Members of Centro Laboral de Graton/ALMAS

Community Organization Award ...continued from page 3

welcomed the opening of the worker center in Graton. Since the establishment of the hiring process, thousands of men and women have obtained work through CLG.

Centro Laboral de Graton's focus on leadership development and organizing creates benefits beyond vital job related opportunities. CLG's worker-led center offers everyone an opportunity to participate in leadership, rights advocacy, civic participation, networking and community service. The center provides access to training, education, health care and legal resources. CLG also serves as a base of support and a place where solidarity and friendships flourish. Today, the center is an active resource, embedded in the local community. ALMAS, the Alianza de Mujeres Activas y Solidarias, or in English, the Women's Action and

Solidarity Alliance, is the domestic worker organizing project of Centro Laboral de Graton. ALMAS organizes with women workers at CLG, and with domestic workers throughout Sonoma County to engage them in leadership and workforce development opportunities so they can advocate for their rights as workers, as women, and as immigrants. ALMAS/CLG is a member of the steering committee of the California Domestic Worker Coalition, and the National Domestic Workers Alliance. ALMAS members gather at the Graton Day Labor Center, and in committees in Sonoma Valley, Santa Rosa, and west Sonoma County to discuss their collective struggles, and to find common solutions. The mission of ALMAS is to build the power of domestic workers... with love! Visit: www.gratondaylabor.org 🌱

Youth Peace & Justice Activists Award

This award is granted to an individual or organization from Sonoma County, ages 13 to 22 years old who have a passion for working locally for peace and social justice, and have made a significant contribution to making our community more just and peaceful.

The Award goes to Sunrise Movement, Sonoma County

Sunrise Movement Sonoma County is a youth led group fighting to stop climate change and get a Green New Deal passed locally and nationally. The local hub was founded in 2019 and has organized youth climate strikes, banner drops, staged die-ins, and speaking at city council and board of supervisors meetings, all in order to demand bold climate action.

Earlier this year, three members of Sunrise Movement Sonoma County – Ema Govea (17), Lola Guthrie (17), Madeline Ruddell (16) – alongside four other Sunrise Movement members, marched 266 miles across California from Paradise to San Francisco to show support for a fully funded Climate Civilian Corps, a federal job program that would become the first part of the Green New Deal.

Sunrise Movement Sonoma County members are champions of climate justice, advocating for the adoption of a Green New Deal, a just transition of labor to clean energy, good jobs with living wages and benefits, and a livable future within Sonoma County. The hub believes in the power of mobilizing youth, taking direct and indirect action, building political power, civic engagement, and partnerships. They are mentored by Christine Byrne, local Teacher, Climate Justice Advocate and Organizer of the Sunrise Movement Sonoma County.

The local Sunrise Movement is pushing for Sonoma County and all of its cities to become carbon neutral by the year 2030 in



L to R: Ema Govea, Lola Guthrie, Madeline Ruddell

order for our region to do its part to avoid further local and global climate catastrophe. They advocate that the county establishes a climate adaptation and energy resilience measures in order to adapt to the changes we are already experiencing due to the climate crisis.

Additionally, the fight for racial justice and equality is an ongoing movement, not a moment. Sunrise Sonoma County stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and uplifts Black voices in Sonoma County as well as the organizers dedicating their time to bring justice here in our backyard. Sunrise Sonoma County uses Justice, Equity and Anti-Oppression (JEAO) as the framework for their hub structure, strategy, and actions. They work to build collective liberation while dismantling white supremacy and oppression. Visit: www.sunrisesoco.org 🌱

“We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sake and for our own.” – Cesar Chavez

'Three Seconds in October: The Shooting of Andy Lopez'

Kathleen Finigan

After twice seeing Ron Rogers' powerful documentary about the tragic death of 13-year-old Andy Lopez, which aired on PBS in late June, this concerned citizen was more than a little interested to see what DA Jill Ravitch would have to say about it at the Oakmont Dems meeting on July 22. This much-awaited documentary really packed a wallop with all manner of new

In the 2015 deposition, Gelhaus was asked, "Did he actually point the gun at you?" and Gelhaus responded, "I don't know."

information that was revealed to the public for the first time.

On October 22, 2013, Deputy Erick Gelhaus saw a boy walking down the street with a plastic toy gun, which he mistook as real. According to his 2015 deposition in the Lopez family's civil suit, Gelhaus approached the boy from behind and shouted "drop the gun," then began shooting within "a couple seconds." Andy went down on the first shot but Gelhaus pumped six more bul-

lets into the boy in mere seconds.

In the immediate aftermath of the death, Gelhaus was escorted to a hotel where he met privately with his union rep and an attorney for six hours before reporting to the police to give his testimony.

The Santa Rosa Police Department was charged with conducting the homicide investigation but to our complete amazement, Gelhaus was told that he was considered to be "the victim, strictly the victim" in this tragic case. That was more than enough to know that the investigation would be designed to clear Gelhaus. And that's exactly what happened. In 2014, Ravitch declared that his actions were "reasonable" and he was off the hook. In fact, then-Sheriff Steve

Freitas subsequently promoted Gelhaus, which was nothing less than a hard slap in the face to the grieving Lopez family and the entire Latinx community. To make matters even worse, Gelhaus then retired and now receives full pension with the higher pay scale he acquired from his promotion to Sergeant.

At the Oakmont meeting in July, Ravitch turned on the charm and asked the group for their support by voting 'no' in the forthcoming recall election against her. She asked for

the honor and privilege of carrying out the rest of her term in order to serve the community in her pursuit of justice.

In the Q&A that followed, Ravitch tried to defend her decision in the Gelhaus case by claiming that he "didn't know that Andy was a child," that he thought he was "a young adult." Worse still, she said that Gelhaus "saw what he believed to be a weapon pointed toward him," even though she now knows full well that isn't true. In the 2015 deposition, Gelhaus was asked, "Did he actually point the gun at you?" and Gelhaus responded, "I don't know."

Ms. Ravitch also said that if new evidence were provided to her, she would "take a look at it." Well, here it is Jill, even though you've had it since 2015. This community still rails against the travesty of justice that you perpetrated. It's clear that this case needs to be reopened. The recall against you failed so now get going and do your job as you promised you would! We demand justice for Andy Lopez and we're not going away.

The Lopez family will be commemorating the 8th anniversary of Andy's death on Oct. 22 at Andy's Unity Park at 5 pm. The community is invited and prayers, songs, poems and remembrances are welcome. 🙏

The 2 Americas (US)

Will Shonbrun

"There's not two Americas!" we're chided by our political leaders. "There's not red and blue America," we're scolded. "There's only one America!"

Bullshit. There are two distinct Americas, or as Rachel Maddow says, "There's Earth one, and Earth two."

Right O. There's regular old normal (wide-range normal, but normal) Earth, and there's bonkers Earth. Easily distinguishable. On E1, 40-year-old men wear baseball caps, sometimes backward, and on E2 they wear bison heads with Viking horns. In Normalville, Biden is the President because he got more votes, while in Bonkerstown, Trump is President because he says so. In Blue America people are getting sick and dying in the hundreds of thousands from a deadly virus, while in Red America, they are all faking it and the virus is nothing to worry about. When it gets to this degree of looney there's no middle ground, no on-the-

other-hand, no other side of the story. There is only Rational v. Bat-shit crazy.

While it may be that reality is a relative thing, as postulated Einstein, there are governing laws: physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology and such that do dictate a lot of what is "real" down here on Earth and necessary to know if one is to reside here. But there dwell along beside us here on Earth 1, a certain percentage of fellow creatures that have discarded all this knowledge, insist it's all nonsense, and that their Bizarro world of truth without facts, logic or a shred of credibility are what you must believe. Such is life on Earth 2.

Oh yeah, right, got it. Science, which just happens to be provable, that's its methodology, is wrong, and the unhinged, made-up-stuff is the real low-down. It would be funny if it wasn't so flat out lunatic. And dangerous. There's a mighty strong case can be built for that.

These people don't trust or believe in the government, the one on Earth 1 that most

of the people live on, and instead trust and believe in a former President, who will not relinquish office, though he lost by many millions of votes, and makes up bizarre and fantastic lies. Not only a vast majority of the people in this country know he lies and is a liar par excellence, but so do the rest of the world's countries. It's safe to speculate, probably the only people that believe Trump are his family, the thugs that invaded the Capital, and the dupes that voted for him and would do so again. Not sure about the family. Anyone who can blow this off with amusement, got some surprises coming.

And if you're still laughing, think about the mid-term elections when the tables might turn, or, if you really want a big chuckle, ponder 2024, when Trump might ride again. Think not? Think again how many times you counted that evil dude o-u-t. And think about Gen. Milley who had to keep Orange Donald on a leash so as not to light a nuclear fuse somewhere. Ain't that amusing. 🙏

Golden Rule Peace Boat is Back in Northern California



Kanoelehua (Michaëlle) Masonette, Nolan Anderson, Captain Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa and Captain Malinda Anderson upon arrival at Schoonmaker Point Marina in Sausalito on June 1, 2021.

Helen Jaccard

The *Golden Rule*, owned by Veterans For Peace, first visited Bodega Bay in 2015. The Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County welcomed the crew. We visited again in 2017, and talked with people at the Bodega Marine Laboratory and the Veterans Memorial Hall. We will visit again this November and hope to see many of you at the Peace & Justice Center or in Petaluma.

What is the Golden Rule peace boat?

In 1958 four Quaker peace activists sailed the *Golden Rule* toward the Marshall Islands in an attempt to halt atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. Between 1946 and 1958 the US dropped 67 nuclear bombs on Enewetak and Bikini atolls in the Marshall Islands, spreading radiation around the planet.

Plans to interfere with the nuclear tests were very well publicized. After sailing from Los Angeles to Honolulu, the crew resupplied the *Golden Rule* and headed back out to sea. But the US Coast Guard caught up with them and arrested her crew, causing an international outcry to “Free the Crew of the *Golden Rule*”.

Rising public awareness of the dangers of radiation led to worldwide demands to stop nuclear testing. In 1963 President Kennedy, the U.S.S.R. and the U.K. signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The *Golden Rule*'s 1958 voyage inspired the founding of Greenpeace.

For decades, *Golden Rule* was in private

hands. Then in 2010 she sank in a gale in Humboldt Bay. For the next five years, Veterans For Peace, Quakers and others restored her.

Fulfilling Veterans For Peace Goal to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and War

We launched the reborn *Golden Rule* in June 2015 and for four years sailed the west coast of North America, giving over one hundred educational presentations.

The *Golden Rule* led “Peace Fleets” in five cities during “Fleet Week”, when the Navy brings its war ships and other killing machines into our ports. Thousands of people visited the *Golden Rule* during four wooden boat shows.

Hawai'i: Militarism and Nuclear Madness!

When President Trump and Kim Jung Un started threatening to use nuclear weapons, Veterans For Peace decided to take *Golden Rule* back into the Pacific to try to stop the possibility of nuclear war!

In July 2019 the *Golden Rule* sailed again to Hawai'i, where there is great concern about a nuclear war between the US and North Korea.

We planned to sail to the Marshall Islands, Guam, Okinawa and on to Japan for the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, countries closed their borders and in-person events were unsafe due to Covid 19.

After 22 months and over a hundred pre-

sentations on all of the Hawaiian Islands, *Golden Rule* returned to San Francisco Bay! We recently sailed with the Santa Rosa chapter of Veterans For Peace. I just gave presentations to the Santa Rosa East/West Rotary Club and the Sunrise Club, and attended the reopening of the Peace & Justice Center. Thank you, Fred Ptucha, for arranging these visits, the hospitality, and asking Kerry Benefield from the Press Democrat to publish an article!

What's next for the Golden Rule?

In September *Golden Rule* sails from San Francisco Bay to Humboldt Bay for repairs and a welcome home party! We will visit Santa Rosa in November on our way south to San Diego and back north to San Francisco.

The boat will remain in Northern California until September 2022, then embark on the “Great Loop” – a 15-month voyage around the eastern half of the US. The *Golden Rule* team will visit over 100 towns and cities – and we could use your help!

In order to continue sailing for a nuclear-free world, we depend on the generosity of many donors. Please join the *Golden Rule* family! We also need authors, speakers, musicians, and organizers.

Please contact Project Manager Helen Jaccard at 206-992-6364 or vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com and learn how you can get involved! Learn more at vfpgoldenrule.org or Facebook at Golden Rule Peace Boat. ☸

GLOBAL WARNING #4: Methane a Bridge Fuel?

Barry Barnett

If “natural gas” is a bridge between “fossil fuels” and renewable energy, then it is a bridge into a planetary environmental chasm.

Of course, methane (CH₄) is a fossil fuel. Like coal and petroleum (Greek: “rock oil”), methane drilled from deep within the Earth is *thermogenic*, organic matter decaying to methane at high temperatures (and pressures).

Fossil fuel corporations have invested billions of dollars into infrastructure for exploration, drilling, refining, transporting, and also advertising and lobbying governments and the public for their products. As the burning of non-renewable fossil fuels - along with all its other “externalities” in production and distribution - heats up our planet’s atmosphere to dangerous levels, these companies seek to portray methane as a “clean energy source” and a “bridge fuel” between supposedly more polluting oil and coal and an ambiguous future time of clean energy, which the giant, massively subsidized corporations wish to put off as long as possible. In addition to keeping them in business (though they could invest in converting their infrastructure to produce renewables), we are now at global peak oil, according to the world’s peak oil expert, Richard Heinberg of Santa Rosa, CA.

Peak oil means that half of all the petroleum reserves in the world have been depleted. The easy to extract and highest quality oil, needing the least refining, as in Iraq and Kuwait, has been drilled, or merely collected from mixed oil/water springs and surface beds. Now the remaining oil is more difficult to extract, encouraging shale oil production and hydraulic fracturing, as well as needing to drill deeper wells.

Two-time presidential candidate Bernie Sanders ran on a platform of fairly rapid conversion to clean, renewable energy sources: solar, wind, geothermal, and tidal. Because of political manipulation, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were elected. To mollify Republicans attacking them for potentially reversing Donald Trump’s “Energy Dominance” Policy (like military “full-scale dominance”) that made the US the world’s biggest energy producer and exporter through the expansion of oil, gas, and coal

drilling and mining, Biden and Harris swore that they would not ban fracking.

Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” is a process of injecting water and chemicals under high pressure into oil and gas wells. The pressure is so great that it breaks up subterranean rocks, releasing oil and methane.

Unfortunately, there are many reports of contaminated water in homes, businesses, and inhabited lands, increases in diseases such as cancers, and even earthquakes shaking nearby residences from the intense pressures under the Earth.

Tar sands extractions are another source of low grade petroleum of high viscosity that is difficult to extract and refine. In addition, there have been *thousands* of oil spills from pipelines, and extremely polluting spills from tankers shipping oil around the world.

An important focus of protests by environmentalists and concerned citizens has been to stop the construction and continued usage of oil pipelines. Insidiously, right wing groups like the Koch Industries’ American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has influenced many state legislatures to pass anti-protest laws criminalizing demonstrations at pipelines – even sometimes constituting felonies. Often, ALEC lobbyists write the bills themselves, send them to state houses, especially in conservative states, which are then rubber-stamped, and other states imitate the practice of passing these unconstitutional laws (abridging the First Amendment right to peaceably assemble) without inspection or discussion.

Furthermore, police have been extremely violent at peaceful protests, reminiscent of the murderous, strike-breaking Pinkerton private corporate militias of

around a century ago.

Comparing methane to carbon dioxide (CO₂), the heat-trapping potential of CH₄ is 84 times CO₂ over 20 years. And the potential for massive release of methane stored in frozen Arctic and Antarctic methane hydrates could be catastrophic as the polar regions heat up. Some are already melting and burning.

Scientists have measured the methane emitted by cows, with temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius (104F) in their ruminant



Methane gas leaks from the ground both naturally and from coal, oil, and gas extraction. New research shows that more of the methane in the atmosphere comes from the fossil fuel industry than previously thought.

stomachs. The methane is burped (not farted, as many erroneously think). They can emit as much as 500 liters (132 gallons) a day per cow.

Clearly, a concerted switch to clean energy and less meat consumption would be extremely beneficial for the environment and all life on Earth. - 701 words

Sources: Wikipedia, Atmospheric Methane; Climate Change and Methane Hydrates, World Ocean Review, 2010; ALEC Exposed, The Center for Media and Democracy; Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Declines, Richard Heinberg, July 2010, newly revised; Film, Gasland, by Josh Fox (on fracking). 🐾

Barry Barnett is a political and environmental author and activist, health professional and musician. You can follow him on Twitter, counterpunch.org/archives/author's name, and his website at patreon.com/barry-barnett, with 95+ articles, satire, poetry, and political fantasy stories, all free of charge to read. Feedback welcome at barrymuse123@gmail.com.

Leaving Vietnam – Again

e.g. singer

I can still remember the scene broadcast to the nation on April 30, 1975, as an unending stream of desperate people, fears and tears frozen across their faces, as they crowded into the American Embassy compound, winding up the stairs to a rooftop, where helicopters waited to evacuate the “last” few individuals and families from the encroaching armies that surrounded them in Saigon. A better dramatic movie scene could not have been written for what the television audience was viewing! It was the final act of a nation – our nation – to acknowledge what little “humanity,” we could show, after the carnage we inflicted upon a country for over 18 years. We had lost the Vietnam War!

Have we learned any lessons from that war, over the past 45 years. I think not! For it has been our foreign policy to continually play policeman of the world – investing young blood and capital, to not only remake governments in our own “tarnished” image – but to have the audacity to think we could strip away the cultures, thousands of years old, from the people who live in those lands. It is in the words spoken and written from the 1960’s by an Arkansas senator, J. William Fulbright, to describe our intentions in Southeast Asia, as “the arrogance of power.”

And what we didn’t learn back then, from our own experience, we still could not comprehend, as we watched the Soviet Union’s invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in the 1970’s, that led to their own “Vietnam” after 10 years, being unable to control the populace.

As Mark Twain wrote, “History doesn’t repeat, but it rhymes”. And as we carried out two more unsuccessful attempts, in Iraq and in Afghanistan, to institute changes and “improve” the lives of those populations, we again faced a harsh reality. Our occupation



An Air America helicopter crew member helps evacuees up a ladder on the roof of 18 Gia Long Street on April 29, 1975, shortly before the city fell to advancing North Vietnamese troops.

PHOTO: HUGHVANES/UPI/NEWS.COM

in Iraq was 9 years, with some troops still serving currently after 17 years, in (non-combatant) duty. The United States has been involved 20 years in Afghanistan – officially the longest war – which is now ending. Both “respective” invasions and occupations resulted in decidedly negative outcomes.

That rhyming could not have been made clearer – if we chose to pay attention to what world history has attempted to teach us through the 19th and 20th centuries, and up to the present. The events that led to the overthrow of dictatorships and colonial powers, globally – which impacted the British, the French, the Spanish and Portuguese, the Japanese, the Russians, and the United States’ puppet governments, should have served as an advanced warning. But historical moments that seem to have occurred overnight, have not – they were, in fact, the resultant conditions of unmitigated human suffering and anger that stretched over many, many decades; they were indicative that the threshold had finally been reached by the native populations toward their occupiers – and that through the sounds of words

and protests or bullets and bombs, they were willing to lay down their lives.

Apparently, what we still do not understand, is that nature abhors a vacuum. We have witnessed all over the world, in the past decades, how the foul chemistry of countries, with corrupt governments, religious extremists, and tribal cultures, have combined in promoting fear and ignorance; to control and repress its citizenry. Until and unless the majority of these respective country’s populations come to an understanding, (as they did when they were occupied and dislodged the major colonial powers decades before), their societies will continue to weaken and disintegrate – and there will be no light at the end of that long, dark tunnel.

The spoken or unspoken caveat should be recognized by us, better soon, than late – both overseas and at home – Beware, the embers of rage lie warm and just beneath the surface – waiting... waiting... waiting... – to spark and combust! It’s happened before, it will happen again – it is happening right now! 🙏

About the Palestinian Authority

Rebel Fagin

We hear a lot of talk about Hamas but very little about the Palestinian Authority (PA). The Palestinian Authority was created out of the Oslo Accords in 1993 as an interim government while Israel and Palestinian negotiated borders. Israel and the United States approved of this government. Yasser Arafat was elected as their leader in 1996 with 86% of the vote. When he died in 2004, Mahmoud Abbas was elected with 62% of the vote. He has ruled ever since, which is why the PA is sometimes referred to as the Abbas government. Fatah is the largest political party within the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority has no power over the settlers, the borders, airspace, water and more. This temporary governing body does not represent overseas Palestinians nor those living in Israel. Their power to govern is further limited by jurisdictional divisions within the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority is the governing body in Area A, the cities, and shares this responsibility with the Israelis in Area B, the suburbs. 96% of Palestinians live in this 40% of occupied Palestine. Area C, 60% of the West Bank, is the rural area, home to 4% of the Palestinians. This is where most of the settlement growth is happening. Of course, with Palestine being under occupation, the Israelis can take over whenever "security" requires it.

The US under Biden recognizes the Palestinian Authority and has restored relations. US Ambassador Richard Mills said, "Under the new administration, the policy of the US will be to support a mutually agreed two-state solution, one in which Israel lives in peace and security alongside a viable Palestinian state. The US will maintain its steadfast support for Israel."

On May 30, 2020, Israeli police in Jerusalem's Old City killed an autistic man, Eyadal-Hallaq after he ran from them in fear. He endangered no one. On June 23 border police shot and killed 26-year-old Ahmed Erekat after his car crashed into a checkpoint. Authorities said it was a car-ramming incident. The family said it was an accident. By May 2020, settlers had already killed one man and injured 103 others. In the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Issawiya, 850 Palestinians were arrested between April 2019 & April 2020. In April 2020 the Israeli police closed a corona virus testing center in

the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan because it operated without the Palestinian Authorities assistance.

"It made it feel as though they were trying to eliminate our presence from the city," said Majed al-Qeimari, a butcher from East Jerusalem. "We felt a need to stand up in their faces and make a point that we are here." In April, right wing Israelis held their "Death to Arabs" march in the Old City. While the PA has no authority over Israelis they could have at least objected. Instead, President Mahmoud Abbas cancelled elections, fearing the results. On May 7th Israel attacked worshippers at the al-Aqsa mosque. It was then that Hamas took leadership in defending the Palestinians. Said Hamas military leader Muhammed Deif, "If aggression against our people in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood does not stop immediately, we will not stand idly by." On May 10, Hamas began its rocket attacks. Where was the Palestinian Authority during all this?

The Palestinian Authority is known to be corrupt, divided and unpopular. 85-year-old Mahmoud Abbas is uninspiring and has no clear successor. Worst of all, Abbas relies on negotiating with Israel. How will this approach end the occupation? While the Biden administration wants to work with the PA, most Palestinians do not.

"It was a confrontation between Israel and the Palestinian people in which the Palestinian Authority and Fatah were absent," Nasser al-Kidwa, a longtime senior Fatah official who broke with Abbas said of the recent attacks by Israel. "So, we deserve it."

Osama Qawasma, a Fatah spokesperson, said. "The people are very angry toward Israel. They want more resistance. An intifada can come at any time. The West Bank is in a very dangerous situation."

"There is accumulated anger," said Aymam Daraghme, a member of the now-dormant Palestinian Legislative Council. "The cancelled elections. The iron fist. The corruption. It's like the pressure cooker exploded."

"There is no love for Hamas," said Qadura Fares, a senior Fatah member, "but anyone who makes the Israelis afraid, he's a hero for us."

In 1935 and 1937 Japan took over China. Chiang Kai-shek's government worked with the occupation while Mao's communists fought back. In occupied France in the

1940's the Vichy Government worked with the Nazis while de Gaulle and the French resistance fought back. Is the Palestinian Authority another occupied government working with the occupier to try to make the occupation palatable to the Palestinians? Is this good enough, or is resistance like that of the Chinese communists and the French resistance a better option? This decision is up to the Palestinians.

To learn more about Palestine, listen to *Speaking of Palestine* from 4 to 5 on the first Monday of the month with an encore presentation on the third Monday at 89.1 FM, KBBF. You can hear previous shows by typing speakingofpalestine.com in your address bar and going to page one.

Sources: Human Rights Watch World Report 2021, hrw.org, Institute for Middle East Understanding, imeu.org, [ap news](http://apnews.com) 1/26/21, NY Times 2021/05/15, Washington Post 6/4/21, brookings.edu 5/12/21. 🐦

(...and in the USA)

Concentration Camps


Sucked at my teeth to scribble a worthy response that might make it all the way to D.C. or at least the Smithsonian; even my living room.

Where's the point to blood lines across the page
Parents who carry babies under shirts are still going to be found dead in the river or spilling over themselves, wrapped up in blankets of mylar that does not hold in the warmth of their living child.

Viktoria Valenzuela

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The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You

e.g.singer, santa rosa

The Texas state motto begun in 1930 is friendship. The motto, purportedly chosen because the name of Texas or Tejas was the Spanish pronunciation of the local Indian tribe’s word, teyshas or thecas, meaning friends or allies.” Yet it is no secret how racial and cultural minorities, Afro-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Native-Americans, were treated in Texas over the last two centuries – before and after gaining statehood.

We should remember that Texas, was a part of the Confederacy at the beginning of the Civil War – supplying men, munitions and money; and who could forget the history book reading, the misguided quote, that justified, and rewrote a dark chapter of manifest destiny – yet another land grab, with “Remember the Alamo”.

Racial and cultural minorities, are given hyphenated status – their skin colors and cultural identities are definable. And God bless them for it – for all the invaluable gifts they have given to this country!

Sadly, that motto should be qualified once again; to exclude certain women, we’ll call them, the Pregnant-Americans, the ones currently residing in the Lone Star State. For they certainly are not being treated in a friendly manner. Yes, the “Great State of Texas”, has found yet another avenue, besides voter repression, to go after people of color and of class – pregnancy!

This decision from “the new, improved Supreme Court” displays a callous disregard for the health of women regarding their abortion rights and punishes those who assist them– a decision that is staggering in its scope and implications. It not only ignores trauma that may have been inflicted to cause conception, it additionally has erased the timeline to six weeks or a medical opinion to terminate a pregnancy.

But, frightening as well, is the use of government-sanctioned vigilantism – a method adopted by dictatorships, that turn citizens against one another, and will present a new paradigm for enforcement of law in this country.

So unfortunately for some, for perhaps far too many it’s true, “The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You.” 🙄



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Sonoma County Social Justice Groups

ALL PHONE AREA CODES ARE (707)
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350 Sonoma County – Engaging our community in the work of 350.org to solve the climate crisis. 350sonomacounty.org

ACLU Sonoma Co., working to preserve individual working rights and liberties. Meets each second Monday. Contact patriciamorandi@sbcglobal.net, or davhen@sonic.net.

Allies Safety Network – compiling a phone chain/helpline to build a safety network for those at risk of harassment to provide a supportive presence in situations of hateful threats. Join the Network Call List: 583-9168

Alternatives to Violence – Presents experiential workshops in personal growth in the community and prisons. 545-1798

Comité VIDA – Defends the human and civil rights of immigrants. 523-1740, cirsc@yahoo.com,

Daily Acts – Offers sustainable solutions rooted in the power of inspired daily actions. 789-9664, dailyacts.org

Fukushima Response – works to inform about the Fukushima melt downs, monitor the consequences, advocate for the shut down of Diablo Canyon. fukushimaresponse.org. 823-9203

Green Party of Sonoma County – sonomagreenparty.org

Green Sangha – Spiritually engaged environmental action. info@greensangha.org

HPEACE – Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment. hpeacesonomacounty.wordpress.com

Healdsburg Peace Project – Peace and social justice action group, Healdsburg. 431-1129, healdsburgpeaceproject.org

Hate Free Petaluma Progressive organization. www.facebook.com/hatefreepetaluma/

Homeless Action – Advocating for people without shelter. 795-2890

Indivisible Goups – All the groups are on Facebook.

Indivisible Sonoma County: indivisiblesoco.com
Indivisible Petaluma: indivisiblepetaluma@gmail.com, or follow on Twitter at @IndivisibleLuma

Indivisible Sebastopol: indivisible.wsc@gmail.com

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Windsor

LezResist! was formed to be a visible and unified Lesbian presence in support of each other, and to stand in solidarity with the many communities, causes, and policies under attack by the current U.S. administration. Info @ at LezResist@gmail.com.

Listening for a Change – Programs support listening and oral history to create a caring community. 578-5420, listeningforachange.org

MEChA de Sonoma – Student group that focuses on issues affecting the Chicano/Latino community. info@mechadesonoma.org

Metta Center for Nonviolence – Works to promote non-violence worldwide and to build a nonviolent culture. 774-6299

MOVES-Minimizing Occurrences of Violence in Everyday Society – Stresses nonviolence as the answer to society's violence. 524-1900

NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People – Seeks to eliminate racial hatred, racial profiling and discrimination. 978-1327

National Women's History Project – coordinates observances of Women's History month around the country. 636-2888, nwhp@aol.com

North Bay Jobs with Justice – organized for better conditions and a living wage for workers. Email: northbayjobswithjustice@gmail.com, Website: northbayjobswithjustice.org, Facebook, North Bay Jobs With Justice Ph: 346-1187

North Bay Organizing Project – a regional faith and values based peoples' organization. 318-2818

North Coast Coalition for Palestine – Brings greater awareness to the plight of the Palestinian people and works to end US military support for Israel. 575-8902. www.nccpal.org or find us on Facebook.

NOW of Sonoma County – local chapter of the National Organization for Women. 545-5036

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

Organizing for Action: Progressive organizing project. Contact Linda Hemenway: 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, thepeacealliance.org

Peace Roots Alliance – We seek to create a peaceful, just and sustainable world for future generations. 765-0196, Linda@peaceroots.org

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development – facebook.com/pb4cd

Petaluma Progressives – Grassroots, political education and action group. Producers of the Progressive Festival. 763-8134, info@progressivefestival.org

Praxis Peace Institute – Peace Education organization, 939-2973, praxispeace.org

Progressive Sonoma – Peaceful Resistance Network. An umbrella association to network Sonoma's local progressive action groups. peacefulresistance9.wixsite.com/progressivesonoma. Facebook at Peaceful Resistance Sonoma

Project Censored/Media Freedom Foundation – Publishes the top 25 most censored news stories each year. 874-2695, Peter@projectcensored.org, Mickey@projectcensored.org. projectcensored.org.

Racial Justice Allies – Developing anti-racist practices among white social justice activists. 795-2890 racialjusticeallies@gmail.com, www.racialjusticeallies.org

Sonoma County Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). In support of single payer health insurance. 763-1925. sngold@juno.com. www.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 PJC. Info: 595-0320 or SonomaCounty-CAN@gmail.com (email preferred).

Sonoma County Coastal Hills: gardens@mcn.org

Sonoma County Nonviolence Training Collective offers free trainings in methods and principles for progressive social change and peace. soconvtc@gmail.com.

Sonoma County Resistance via change.org

Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock – Supporting indigenous rights and fossil fuel resistance. SonomaSolidarity.org, Facebook: Sonoma Solidarity with Standing Rock. 792-4422.

Sonoma Valley Peace & Justice – Peace and social justice group for Sonoma Valley. audreyvh@sbcglobal.net

Sonoma County Black Forum: Our mission is to lead, serve, and thrive, by promoting positive community and youth engagement events. Monthly meetings. sonomacounty-blackforum@gmail.com

SURJ (Showing Up For Racial Justice, Sonoma County) – 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

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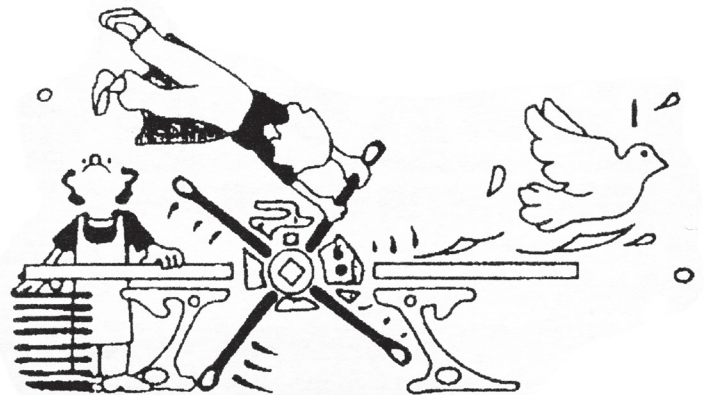
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