

SONOMA COUNTY

# peace press

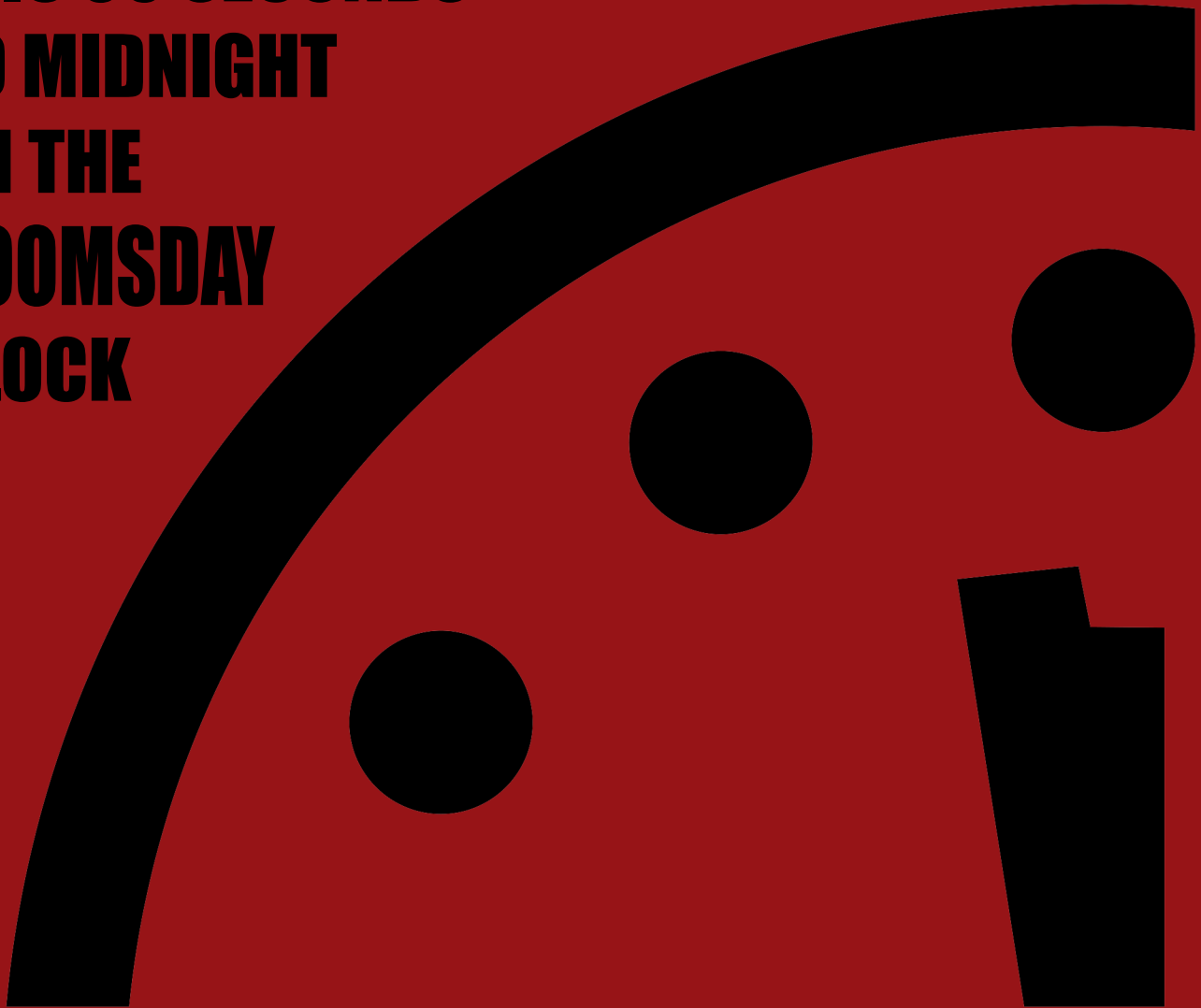
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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- ▶ Knowing Our History
- ▶ It's High Time to Rise Up!
- ▶ Events in Celebration of Black History Month
- ▶ Sonoma Country Tenants Union
- ▶ A Solution to the Deepening Crisis of Capitalism

*and much more*

**IT IS 90 SECONDS  
TO MIDNIGHT  
ON THE  
DOOMSDAY  
CLOCK**



**DON'T PANIC! JOIN THE PEACE MOVEMENT!**

What is the Doomsday Clock? ▶ [World Beyond War](#)

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an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).  
467 Sebastopol Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
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### SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Deadline for April/May issue is March, 16, 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.

# Knowing Our History

by *Shekeyna Black*

*“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.” – Angela Davis*

Black History Month and Women’s History Month are intrinsically woven together in the fabric of these United States. Annually celebrated in the February/March issue of the Sonoma County Peace Press because each is a reminder of how far we as a people have come and how far we need to go, towards achieving justice and equality for all.

Black History Month resources:

NAACP Santa Rosa – Santa Rosa/Sonoma County Branch

<https://naacpsantarosasonomaco.org>

Petaluma Blacks for Community Development

<https://pbcd4us.com>

Nu Bridges Youth Collective [www.nubridgesyc.org](http://www.nubridgesyc.org)

“The National Women’s History Alliance, which spearheaded the movement for March being declared National Women’s History Month, has announced the women’s history theme for 2023, ‘Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories.’” Women’s History Month, recognized nationally, had its beginnings in Sonoma County when a local group of women envisioned and advocated for formal acknowledgement of the contributions of women to the fabric and history of the Country. Thus, was created, the National Women’s History Project; whereby, the tapestry that weaves its way through the lives of all women is celebrated annually in March. It is to those courageous women that we owe gratitude for the fact that in 1987, “Congress declared March as National Women’s History Month in perpetuity.” ([Source](#))

Additionally, the website features “President Jimmy Carter’s Message to the nation designating March 2-8, 1980 as National

Women’s History Week.”

“From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

As Dr. Gerda Lerner has noted, “Women’s History is Women’s Right.” – It is an essential and indispensable heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort, courage, and long-range vision.”

I ask my fellow Americans to recognize this heritage with appropriate activities during National Women’s History Week, March 2-8, 1980.

I urge libraries, schools, and community organizations to focus their observances on the leaders who struggled for equality – Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and Alice Paul. Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people.

This goal can be achieved by ratifying the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states that “Equality of Rights under the Law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

We invite you to get involved with the Peace & Justice Center of Sonoma County as we embark on planning for our 40th Anniversary in 2024. A special thank you to everyone who donated time, energy and financial support to the Peace & Justice Center last year and in prior years. We would not be here today if it were not for your commitment to peace and social justice. ✌️

## It’s High Time to Rise Up!

by *Christian Stalberg*

Arguably the most famous whistleblower of all time, Daniel Ellsberg, recently spoke urgently of the clear and present danger we find ourselves in at this moment. He was referring to the proxy war going on right now in Ukraine between the United States and Russia, two nuclear powers. The worry is not so much that one side or the other would intentionally launch a nuclear strike first, thereby precipitating an immediate response, resulting in a nuclear Armageddon. The worry is that as the war escalates, a first nuclear strike could occur accidentally through a miscalculation or a glitch in the system, resulting in the infamous mutually assured destruction scenario.

In his recent address to the world, Ellsberg told the story which surprisingly I find very few people know about, of how during the Cuban missile crisis, a nuclear armed Soviet submarine off the coast of Cuba, came close to launching its nuclear armed torpedoes at United States warships. During the crisis US warships were dropping depth charges at the submarines, not to destroy them, but to let the submarines know that they were spotted. Soviet

high command tried to notify their submarine commanders that these were only notification depth charges, but the transmissions never reached the commanders. As far as the commanders knew, war had broken out between the United States and the Soviet Union and they were under real attack. The protocol for launching the nuclear armed torpedoes was triggered. That protocol included more than one person giving the final order to launch. Incredibly, one of the commanders, Vasili Arkhipov, decided to ‘stand down’ ending the imminent nuclear strike.

The war in Ukraine is no ordinary war. Make no mistake about it. Two of the world’s nuclear powers are currently engaged in battle with one another in Ukraine. The danger of this moment cannot be overestimated. What makes matters worse is that the war, for all intents and purposes, is being directed by weapons manufacturers for whom the US government is simply a handmaiden. A handmaiden? Yes. The military industrial complex has become a Frankenstein’s monster, a rogue creature that has taken on a life of its own, exercising its power of command and control over our own government.

*High Time to Rise Up!...see page 14*



# Events in Celebration of Black History Month



February is Black History Month, and we at Petaluma Blacks for Community Development are excited about our lineup of activities for 2023. They will take place in various locations around Sonoma County.

## Events at the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum

February 3, We will kick off our celebration with The Dorian Mode. Dorian Bartley and her amazing accomplice will treat you to an evening of wonderful jazz, blues and R & B. You will want to get up and dance. The program will start at 7:00 pm with the doors opening at 6:30 pm. Snacks and drinks provided downstairs for \$35.00. If you want to be pampered, upstairs seating is \$40.00 and includes Champagne and an amazing view. The tickets are available for purchase online at the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum website or at the museum. Remember this events sells out, so get your tickets early.

February 10, Historical Museum Exhibit Open House – Doors open at 6:30 pm. There will be a docent led tour of the exhibit. From Enslavement to the Path of Freedom: The Power of Black Resistance. This exhibit addresses the ongoing oppression that African Americans have encountered since the beginning of this country and how they have resisted, organized, planned and educated themselves to show the true resilience of a people determined to hold the United States to the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice for all. The exhibit will be at the museum from Feb. 10 to March 26, 2023. It is free and open to the public.

February 11, 2023 – Petaluma psychologist, Dr. Nobuko Hattori, will do a community training from 1 pm to 5 pm to help create an understanding of the impact of trauma and chronic stress on the nervous system and how resiliency can be restored or increased using the Community Resiliency Model (CRM). Dr. Hattori will explain how CRM works. This will be an interactive event so space is limited. You will need to register at the museum. The training is free and open to the public.

Feb. 18 From 11:30 am to 2:30 pm there will be a free Children's Story Time at the museum. We will have a storyteller, pictures to color and activities. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

March 5, Rosa Park Day at the Museum – Children will make a bus similar to the one on which Rosa Park refused to give up her seat, and hear stories about Rosa Park. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is free.

## Events at Other Community Locations

February 16, Polly Klaas Community Theater, 417 Western Ave. There will be two sessions of West African Drumming and Dance by Amadou Camara and Marie Soumah at 6 pm and 7 pm. This performance is in conjunction with Arts Alive, The Polly Klaas Community Theater and Petaluma Blacks for Community Development. The event is free and open to the public.

February 19, Museum of Sonoma County, 425 Seventh Street, Santa Rosa, CA. Art in Conversation: Black Resistance in Contemporary Art From 1 pm to 3 pm four contemporary Black artists of northern California will share their art via video while in a conversation discussing Black resistance, their art work and how it is perceived in the world today. This will be a one-day, "must see" art exhibit. The cost is \$10 general admission, \$5 for members, and \$7 for seniors and youth. It is sponsored by the Sonoma County Museum and Petaluma Blacks for Community Development.

February 25, Black History Program, New Life Christian Church, 1310 Clegg St., Petaluma. This will be our 45th Anniversary Program. Expect to be entertained and educated. We will have something for everyone in the family. The program begins at 5:30 pm. It is free and open to the public. We are planning for an in person program with possible live streaming.

March 19, 2023 – Sharon Henderson and the Reflection Band, singing Gospel and R&B at the Polly Klaas Community Theater, 417 Western Ave, Petaluma. The cost is \$40 and includes refreshments. The show will begin at 4 pm. Sharon has been singing since the age of three. She has received rave reviews from the *San Francisco Examiner* and her moving a cappella rendition of "Lawd How Come Me Heah" has moved some people to shout.

Please check our webpages for any changes to the programming. Links:

[Petaluma Historical Library and Museum](#)  
[Petaluma Blacks for Community Development](#)

by Faith Ross, a founder of Petaluma Blacks for Community Development 🌱



# NAACP

Santa Rosa - Sonoma County

## Getting to Healthcare for All

At the NAACP March 6 General Meeting, the Healthcare for All Working Group, a coalition of Sonoma County health professionals, labor activists, and community activists will:

- Explore the gaps and injustice in our current healthcare system.
- Compare how other countries can provide universal care that delivers superior health outcomes at much lower cost – and better responses in times of crisis.
- Examine our options for improving the quality, reliability, equity, and efficiency of our system.
- Explore together how we can organize to achieve health justice!

COVID has provided a stress test of the American healthcare system – and our grade is not pretty. Improved and expanded Medicare for All and/or single-payer healthcare in California, is the best way to address cost, inequity, quality, efficiency, and sustainability.

Check links below for time and location, or Zoom link.

Become a member of the NAACP  
Santa Rosa - Sonoma County



PO BOX 3964, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
 Phone: 707.536.1047  
 Email: [naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.srsc1074b@gmail.com)  
 Website: [naacpsantarosasonomaco.org](http://naacpsantarosasonomaco.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/naacpsonoma](https://facebook.com/naacpsonoma)  
 Instagram: [instagram.com/naacpsonoma](https://instagram.com/naacpsonoma)  
 Twitter: [mobile.twitter.com/naacpsonoma](https://mobile.twitter.com/naacpsonoma)

**NAACP**  
**A Journey Through Time**

**Fashion Show**  
 Youth Works

**Piner High School  
 The Auditorium**

**February 26, 2023  
 @4:00pm**

# Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories

by Elaine B. Holtz

March is Women’s History Month. In 1980, the National Women’s History Project (NWHP) was founded in Santa Rosa, California by Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett and Bette Morgan to broadcast women’s historical achievements. The National Women’s History Project (NWHP) started by leading a coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to designate March as National Women’s History Month.

In 1987, after being petitioned by the NWHP Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March as Women’s History Month. Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women’s History Month. Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women’s History Month. In 2018 the NWHP became known as the National Women’s History Alliance (NWA).

The 2023 National Women’s History Theme, “Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories” from the earliest storytellers through pioneering journalists, our experiences have been captured by a wide variety of artists and teachers. These include authors, songwriters, scholars, playwrights, performers, and grandmothers throughout time. Women have long been instrumental in passing on our heritage in word and in print to communicate the lessons of those who came before us.

Celebrating Women...see page 13

**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

**SURVEY ENDS FEB. 21**

Scan QR code or click [HERE](#) to participate in the survey

# SONOMA COUNTY TENANTS UNION: A Political Home for Renters

by Chad Bolla, North Bay Organizing Project

The Sonoma County Tenants Union, formed a year before the covid-19 pandemic, is the housing justice branch of the North Bay Organizing Project.

We understand that the housing system offered to us under capitalism is inherently biased in favor of the owning class (not a new story), thereby leaving tenants at the mercy of their landlords. We experienced this first hand during the lockdown where it became clear that our local decision makers would, more often than not, side with landlords when it came to tenant protections, or lack thereof. We know that we need to build collective political power with renters if we are to level up and have some degree of agency over our own housing. Hence we established the Sonoma County Tenants Union – a political home for renters. [Will you join us?](#)

We believe we have no choice but to contest for power with the real estate industry, where a majority of the world's wealth is concentrated in the hands of a minority. They are hoarding land and housing while most of us are just trying to stay under a roof. Secure housing is crucial to our survival.

Currently 60 percent of all the world's assets, or \$217 trillion, are in real estate, 74 percent of that invested in housing. [money.visualcapitalist.com](https://money.visualcapitalist.com)

We know that landlords sit at decision-making tables, from city councils to the White House, which means that, as tenants, we have our work cut out for us. Quite simply, our interests as renters do not align with those of landlords who appear to stop at nothing to profit off their investment properties, with minimal to no oversight. Only a large base of organized and politically educated tenants can transform the oppressive relationship between landlords and tenants. The Sonoma County Tenants Union believes that housing is a human right, but understands that only through building collective renter power can we ensure that right.

“We build tenant power by embedding anti-racist, anti-capitalist, and intersectional feminist principles in our work, in solidarity with other movements for collective liberation. We strive for transformative change around housing rights, practices and policies, and thus elevate the experiences, knowledge and needs of those most affected by our current systems – low-income people of color, people with disabilities, trans and queer people, undocumented people, and unhoused people.”

Our work consists of:

- Organizing tenant associations or “mini unions” in apartment complexes across Sonoma County, through issues and action campaigns
- Collaborative organizing projects with state and regional tenant advocacy organizations
- Know Your Rights Workshops/Trainings, both public and personalized
- Mutual Aid Work – first responders to tenants in crisis
- Tenant protection policy campaigns within various cities of Sonoma County

On January 9 2023, the Petaluma City Council, with its newly seated council members, voted to extend the Just Cause Evic-

tion protections ordinance (a law that says tenants can only be evicted for a good reason such as illegal activity, serious violation of the lease, or not paying the rent. This was put into place back in October of 2022. This victory happened after two years of on-the-ground organizing of Petaluma tenants by the Sonoma County Tenants Union, and with support from its allies from Legal Aid of Sonoma County.

**HOW PETALUMA'S NEW JUST CAUSE ORDINANCE PROTECTS TENANTS:**

**DEFEND PETALUMA JUST CAUSE**

- Prevents **arbitrary, retaliatory, or discriminatory** evictions
- Provides **enhanced rental protections** beyond the statewide Tenant Protection Act (TPA) AB 1482 for more units and tenants **acquire the protections faster** than the TPA
- Requires **proper notice** to tenants about **their rights** and about **termination of tenancy**
- Requires **relocation assistance** of 100% of one month's rent or 150% of one month's rent to tenants under certain circumstances
- Ensures **language justice** so that all notices are provided in both English and Spanish or provided in the same language as the original Lease Agreement

Source: [cityofpetaluma.org/tenant-rights](https://cityofpetaluma.org/tenant-rights)

The ordinance was set to sunset in March 2023, but with a 4-2 vote in favor of the extension, it is now scheduled to sunset in July. This means we cannot yet rest. The Sonoma County Tenants Union sees this as a victory for tenants, to be sure, but understands that we still have a lot of organizing to do. This small victory has already served to keep people housed, and demonstrates what we can do when we organize people power with those closest to the problem.

- Are you closest to the problem? A renter? Or perhaps an ally who understands the power imbalance within the landlord/tenant relationship and wants to change it?
- Want to organize your neighbors and form a tenant association?
- Want to join our Petaluma Just Cause Eviction efforts to ensure tenants have stronger protections?
- Want to join the union and be a part of a historic movement?

Learn more about us at our next general meeting February 17, 6 p.m. at NBOP's office on 1717 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405 or check out our websites: [sonomatenants.org](https://sonomatenants.org) and [northbayop.org/housing-justice](https://northbayop.org/housing-justice)

Chad Bolla is Tenant Organizer, North Bay Organizing Project, Sonoma County Tenants Union 🐦



**Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights**

# Human Trafficking in Sonoma County

by *Katrina Phillips*

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. In the beginning of the month, Katrina Phillips, Chair of the [Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights](#) partnered with Lisa Diaz-McQuaid and Elizabeth Quiroz, founders of [Redemption House of the Bay Area](#) to speak at Impact100 Sonoma. Katrina, Lisa and Elizabeth are also members of the Sonoma County Human Trafficking Task Force.

When you listen to Lisa and Elizabeth speak their truths, your heart WILL break. There is no question. Neither one of these powerful Survivors are embellishing their stories. They do not have to. Often, people shake their heads in disbelief, “No. This does NOT happen in Sonoma!!”

Yes. Human Trafficking happens in our beautiful County. Every day. Trafficking does not always “look like” what you think it

should. It is not like in the movies. Sometimes it is happening in clear view right in front of you. Women. Men. Teens. Children. Toddlers. This is one of the most uncomfortable and painful truths of our world.

The best weapon we have against Human Trafficking is EDUCATION!!!

The Redemption House is the only organization in Sonoma County to assist survivors of trafficking to get back to a functional, productive and healthy lifestyle.

In February we will be celebrating our beloved Vice Chair Elizabeth Escalante in our “Community Spotlight.” Vice Chair Escalante has been invaluable to the Commission on Human Rights, a leader in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community and former President of Sonoma County Young Democrats.

*Katrina Phillips is Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, So.Co.*



# Organizing in Solidarity with Farmworkers

by *North Bay Jobs with Justice*

It has been an honor organizing alongside all the workers, organizations, and community allies of North Bay Jobs with Justice this year. At the start of 2022, we set a bold vision for solidarity and courageous organizing here on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Looking back, it’s inspiring to see how much we did as a coalition:

- We walked the picket line with healthcare workers, teachers, hotel workers and food workers
- We supported the building trades workers in winning Project Labor Agreements in Santa Rosa
- We marched for immigrant worker rights
- We educated on the importance of universal healthcare
- We won back over \$50,000 in stolen wages for farmworkers
- We raised nearly \$10,000 for families of farmworkers who passed away this year
- We trained immigrant and indigenous workers in organizing and leadership development

And in the 5 for Farmworkers campaign, which farmworkers have been fighting for just over a year, we’ve won historic victories across the board. What’s more, in the face of increasing climate impacts to the wine industry, farmworker leaders have begun to build models of land stewardship that center on worker leadership and traditional ecological knowledge. This is a just transition being built by and for workers.

But we’re only getting started. In the new year, farmworkers will be continuing the fight to create an industry-wide standard for hazard pay. We’ll be calling on labor and community allies to stand with workers in action and solidarity. La unión hace la fuerza!

Keep up to date on all the latest updates. Follow NBjwJ on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Website](#).

**CREATING BETTER JOBS**

As part of an ongoing collaboration with Resilience Force, and organizations like Russian Riverkeeper and OAEC, worker leaders are making an example of what is possible.

**WHERE WE DID 5 PROJECTS**

CAZADERO, HEALDSBURG, OCCIDENTAL, GEYSERVILLE

RUSSIAN RIVER

The critical ecological work that will determine the livability of this region as climate crisis worsens is being and will be led by immigrant and Indigenous workers who know and tend to the Land.

There are millions of dollars in funding coming to the county to do vegetation management and fire mitigation work, the question is: will these jobs be given the **DIGNIFIED PAY** and respect that’s deserved, and done in a way that **CARES FOR THE LAND?**

“I feel proud that my grandfather taught me how to do this work of restoring the Land, of healing the wounds and giving it life.”

Crispin López, farmworker and Sonoma County resilience worker

We are creating the crew of 20 worker leaders who will build the path forward, learning and demonstrating how to reclaim the power of their labor. In this way, workers are centering their own experience and deep knowledge in caring for the Land, all with the fair pay that this work is owed.

# Plight of the World's Preeminent Journalist Demands Action

by Barry Barnett

"If wars can be started by lies, peace can be started by truth." – Julian Assange

This is the idea behind Wikileaks, founded by Australian journalist Julian Assange on Oct. 4, 2006, as a protected archive of important covert documents that need to see the light of day. Over the years, published caches have exposed to the public serious violations of human rights and civil liberties.

*Peace Press* readers are certainly aware of the prosecution, persecution, and prevarication by governments (and media), resulting in 12 years of life-threatening torture of the great journalist (house arrest began 12/7/10).

The potential extradition of Assange is of critical importance beyond the continual torture of this precious and valuable person. If the criminal US government succeeds in following through on criminalizing this heroic publisher, it will set a precedent: that the US, or any nation state, will be able – encouraged, even – to nab any journalist or publisher *anywhere in the world* and convict and imprison that person for exposing negative content about that entity.

A government is supposed to be the creator and exemplar of law. Assange has exposed a pattern of US military torture, war crimes, and human rights abuses. Wikileaks has no partisanship; it has leaked "dirt" on liberal and conservative political parties, and democratic and autocratic governments alike.

Pres. Trump and his "Justice" Dept. initiated his indictment on 3/6/18 with 17 counts under the 1917 Espionage Act each carrying a ten-year sentence, and one count under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, carrying a five-year sentence = 175 years in prison!

On June 17, 2022, then-UK Home Secretary Priti Patel approved extradition of Julian Assange to the US – what we all feared. His attorneys petitioned to file appeals with the UK Supreme Court and filed an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

This is the journalist-publisher's final appeal(s). It is noteworthy that he has been held in detention in Britain, in London's maximum security Belmarsh Prison for almost four years (since April 2019) without being formally charged with any crime – only an indictment in the US by its DOJ, initially sealed until they themselves inadvertently leaked it.

It is hard to imagine the US government dropping the case, since it would be the opposite of saving face, and would seem to admit they were wrong all along. But a possible concession or compromise happened recently, in October, 2022. US AG Merrick Garland has reportedly sought to rein in ways in which the Justice Dept. has made it harder for journalists to do their jobs. He issued new regulations that ban the use of subpoenas, warrants or court orders to seize reporters' communications records or demand their notes or testimony in efforts to uncover confidential sources in leak investigations.

This may help, if they follow their own rules, but I don't hear Biden or Garland pardoning Assange.



So what can *we do* to help Julian Assange? There are several approaches.

Stella Moris Assange, Julian's South African-Spanish-Swedish wife (married in prison 3/23/22) and mother of his two sons: "The US government's legal costs are entirely paid for by the UK taxpayer. Julian has to raise funds to pay for his legal defense. [Help support Julian's legal battle](#). And there are many other avenues for donation – simply search online.

Stella Assange asserts that the best chance for freeing Julian is for greatly increased, vociferous statements of opposition by people, media, national leaders, organizations, etc. The fact that the *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Der Spiegel*, *Le Monde*, and *El País* have finally published a joint letter demanding that he immediately be released – after benefiting from his scoops while Assange suffered – probably is because these organs finally realize the implications of an Assange extradition – they could be next. But better late than never.

Leaders are speaking out, especially in many Latin American nations. Finally, an Australian PM, the recently elected Anthony Albanese, has spoken with American representatives urging his fellow Aussie citizen to be released. Currently, polls show that over 70% of Australians want Assange freed and back home.

There are many petitions urging the US and UK to drop the case, such as those by [Amnesty International](#), [Reporters Without Borders](#), [Change.org](#), [CODEPINK](#), etc. In Google type in "petitions for Assange."

The Belmarsh Tribunal, founded in Oct. 2021, broadcast an electrifying indictment of the powers suppressing freedom of the press, with members Tariq Ali, Edward Snowden, Jeremy Corbyn, Alice Walker, Chris Hedges, Noam Chomsky, Roger Waters, and Steven Donziger, among others, working for Assange's release, closing Guantanamo, and hearing testimony about assaults to press freedom. Next broadcast will be on Feb. 25, 2023 in NYC. Go to [democracynow.org](#).

Type in "Global Carnival for Assange, Feb. 11, 2023" for an event by the Don't Extradite Assange Campaign that organized the human chain surrounding the British Parliament on 10/8/22. They encourage simultaneous worldwide actions anyone can create. Or go to London if you can. That site has many creative ideas of how we can help Assange.

If you have a YouTube channel or podcast, or write for or speak

*Free Julian Assange...see page 14*





Rovics performing at rally in London for the release of Julian Assange

# Activist Troubadour David Rovics Returns to Sonoma County

by David Rovics

The beginnings of my musical journey were a matter of largely following in my parents' footsteps. Neither of them are troubadours, but they're both accomplished classical musicians. I started out playing classical cello and, in my late teens, moved on to other stringed instruments, such as the guitar.

As a kid on the periphery of the anti-nuke movement in New England in the late 1970s and early 1980s, I was exposed to the power of songs that tell the stories of social movements and their histories. Later, after dropping out of college and going to the west coast in the late 1980s, I discovered artists like Jim Page in Seattle, and realized, to my delight, that this musical tradition I had become ensconced in was still very much alive and well. I set out to write songs like Jim's, in the process temporarily becoming a Jim Page cover artist.

In the mid-90's I quit my last day job – which was as a barista at a Starbucks in Cambridge, Massachusetts – and started being a full-time performer, busking in the Boston metro area's subway system (the "T," as it's known).

After several years playing music beneath the ground, I started touring with different artists who held similar political leanings to myself. Soon thereafter I began doing it on my own, playing music mostly on college campuses and for activist groups of one sort or another.

As various social movements developed at different times, I tended to write related songs and fall into different social movement orbits, like with the global justice movement at the turn of the century. I also got involved with the antiwar movement that followed the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and with Occupy Wall Street when it came around.

I had started my journey, such as it is, with the knowledge that songs can be a powerful way to tell a story, and that music can be a force for bringing people together. I saw these things first-hand, in what was happening with the social movements I was exposed to early on. Since I started touring and playing the role of musical social movement cheerleader myself, I've found, beyond any doubt, that music continues to have this potential everywhere in the world.

There's, of course, much more that could be said on the topic of

*As various social movements developed at different times, I tended to write related songs and fall into different social movement orbits, like with the global justice movement at the turn of the century.*

the journey of the troubadour in the modern age, whether we're talking about me or someone else. The college groups so many of us used to make a good living singing for have lost their budgets, and no longer exist in the ways they did before. The phenomenon of making and selling physical recordings is a thing of the past now, for the most part replaced by streaming platforms that don't seem to have the well-being of artists as part of their business model. In countries like the US and the UK, small venues are disappearing, and what little support for the arts that used to exist is dwindling

*David Rovics...see page 8*

David Rovics... from page 7

further. The ranks of professional artists generally are decreasing, as surviving as an artist becomes increasingly difficult, whether you're a politically oriented storytelling troubadour or an indie rock band.

For many years I did big tours by car all around the US, sometimes twice a year. I also started touring a lot in Europe and other countries in the late 1990s. I stopped trying to tour in the US a few years after Spotify started its free tier, and the economics of touring the US without student groups or CD sales became untenable.

Touring still tends to work better in Europe, and there are plenty of social movements to be plugged into as a musician over there. So with crowd funded patronage and flexibility about where I'm going, I carry on, as it were. One of the few parts of the US I still seem to get to on a fairly regular basis is California, and I'm looking forward to my visit there in February.

Listen to new live recording of a song for Julian Assnager: "Killing the Messenger." • David Rovics web page 🎸



# STEP UP TO THE PLATE: Join the Community Advisory Council

by Susan Collier Lamont

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) of the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach (IOLERO) needs you!

On October 22, 2013, thirteen-year-old Andy Lopez was killed by Sonoma County Deputy Sheriff Erick Gelhaus. It only took a few seconds. Since that day, I have written often in the *Peace Press* about the ongoing efforts to bring accountability and oversight to law enforcement in the county. Though such efforts had preceded Andy's death, they had, sadly, gained little traction.

A search of the archives will give you this history, but one of the accomplishments of the most recent protest movement was forcing the creation, by a foot-dragging board of supervisors, of the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Review and Outreach. A subsidiary of the office is the Community Advisory Council.

The sheriff's office, and some supervisors, was adamantly opposed to community involvement. But, as a result of public pressure, the board charged the CAC with several responsibilities, the most important of which was acting as a conduit between the public and the sheriff's office. This was to be achieved by including "community education and outreach, conveying feedback from the community on law enforcement issues, public discourse regarding policies and procedures and advice and recommendations regarding policies and procedures." The CAC was designed to take the lead on that with "direct public testimony... to provide advice to law enforcement on policies and procedures, training methods and subject areas, trends, and needs within the community."

Under the leadership of the first IOLERO Director, Jerry Threet, the CAC lived up to that expectation. The second director, Karlene Navarro, very quickly gutted the CAC. Many members of the public who had been actively engaged in meetings dropped out, discouraged. And it has taken several years of activism to claw back what Navarro tried to destroy. Now, there is a third director, John Alden, who, it is hoped, will continue that necessary course correction. Signs are good.

During this time, the volunteer/appointed ship of the CAC has been in constant flux. New and dedicated members are needed. Some seats are empty, one member has announced she will leave in March and many of the terms are expiring this year and it is unknown who will decide to stay or to go. Currently, the CAC needs four new members: One each from Supervisorial the first, second and third districts and one at-large member. Each supervisor appoints two members and the director appoints the at-large member. So far, Alden has not appointed a member.

Step Up to the Plate...see page 13



# Community Radio

## KWTF & KRJF

by Rebel Fagin

Some radio reflects corporate goals. Other stations, like Pacifica affiliates KWTF/KRJF, reflect community with diversity and support for the underrepresented.

KWTF, 88.1 fm reaches most of Sonoma County. If you can't get it over the air, it is also available at their [website](#). Their shows range from local shows to national shows. One thing many of their shows have in common is the promotion of community empowerment through the medium of locally-owned, low power FM radio.

Some of their shows include Roots of Rock, Prairie Fire Time, Broken Record, Sprouts, Feminist Current, Rebel Blues, Flipside, Democracy Now, Electronic Intifada, Project Censored, Queer Life

and more. One of their newest shows is Radio Resistance. Radio Resistance combines music and interviews with local activists and artists. It's on the air Wednesday's 5-6 pm.

KRJF, 92.3 fm is their simulcast partner. Their goal is to use radio as a tool for social justice organizing and community expression. They are part of a network of stations across the United States that focus on the needs of the community and not corporate interests. It's 24 hour a day radio. If you can't get it over the air then go to [KRJF](#). As well as many of the shows that run on KWTF, KRJF also presents Planetary Radio, Sea Change, Radio Goethe, World of Metal, Maximum Rockroll, Speaking of Palestine, and the American Radio Hour.

KRJF prioritizes working with groups traditionally marginalized from access to, in order to get diverse new voices and empower movements led by those most affected.

"Community radio is 90% community and 10% radio" said Zane Ibrahim of South Africa's Bush Radio.

Give 'em a listen and you'll hear what I'm talking about. 🌿

## KBBF Innovating Since 1973

by Serena Makofsky

For 50 years, Santa Rosa's KBBF radio station has been producing original community radio in Spanish, English, and indigenous languages. Alicia Sanchez, President of KBBF's Board of Directors, shares how the station remains attuned to community needs.

"We have continued to serve the community by reporting on issues such as lack of affordable housing, labor rights, immigration, education, and social justice. We have also provided timely information to our listeners about disaster preparation and resources for health and education, in Spanish, English, and indigenous languages. In fact, we were on the front lines of providing continuous information and language justice to our diverse community throughout the various disasters we have faced."

### Con Safos C/S

Tune into KBBF to experience both locally created original programs as well as national and international shows in multiple languages. Last year saw new and renewed talents emerging post-pandemic. One recent addition to the weekly roster is "Con Safos."

Edgar Avila, KBBF's Director of Programming, describes this unique show. "[It's] hosted by Louie Gutierrez, with commentary and music curated by the legendary Dr. Loco. The program explores Tex-Mex, border music, norteñas and corridos, and all kinds of Chicano-related music." The show airs every Wednesday from 3-4pm, interspersing music with history and culture. Listeners can expect to hear a mix of English, Spanglish, and Caló.

The name of the program carries its own history. Avila explains, "Con/Safos (or C/S) is a message that often accompanies a graffiti writer's tag in Chicano street culture."

Board President Alicia Sanchez has glowing reviews of Con Safos. "What can I say?!!! It brought tears and many beautiful memories – being born in El Paso, Texas (being a Tex-Mex), listening to norteñas y corridos, writing a paper about all the Mexican and Chicano slang words when I was in college where and when I became a Chicana (in the '70s) and finally becoming a groupie of Dr. Loco. What a perfect name for this program!"

### Sonora Futura

Another recent addition to KBBF's weekly rotation is "Sonora Futura," hosted by DJ Broken Record. This is a music show where

a different professional DJ mixes live from the KBBF studio every week." Tune in Tuesdays 9pm to 11pm.

### El Remate

Some old favorite shows have returned to KBBF. After many years, "El Remate" is airing again. Avila reports, "It is an on-air flea market where callers can offer items for sale or for free, and people can announce things they need from others." Hosted by Francisco Carbajal, the show runs Saturdays from 8am to 9am.

### Indigenous Programming

There are a few notable shows on KBBF's roster that feature indigenous languages. Sundays at noon, Radio Bilingüe presents "La Hora Mixteca." It is followed by Lorenzo Oropeza's "Caminos Indígenas" at noon. Oropeza, who is Mixteco and originally from Oaxaca, is also the host of "Caminos Musicales," airing Thursdays at 8:30 pm.

Oropeza provides insightful programs highlighting the voices and issues of the migrant farmworker community. In his words, "El enfoque del programa es educar a los campesinos inmigrantes sobre sus derechos laborales, viviendas, la educación, temas de inmigración, temas de salud y otros. Combinando con música y poesía de Oaxaca, Guerrero, Maya, Yucatán y de otros grupos musicales." While educating farmworkers about their rights regarding work, housing, education, and immigration, he also weaves in issues about health and the music and poetry of Mexico's indigenous populations.

Llavi Naa, Xulio Soriano, and Maribel Merino present "Radio Autoctona Indigenista" Tuesdays at 6pm. They describe the Mixteco, Triqui, and Chatino show as having a "...misión es levantar las voces de las comunidades indígenas fomentando nuestra auto-representación y autonomía, cultural, lingüística, y ecológica."

### Support KBBF

Your support is what makes this possible. There are many ways to help, and be involved in this community resource.

- Send a tax-deductible donation by mail, or through our website, [kbbf.org](http://kbbf.org)
- Donate a car by calling (877) 411-3662
- Escrip: if you shop at Oliver's Markets, Fircrest Market, or Petaluma Market, ask them for a community card, and through the escrip program the market will donate a portion of your purchases to KBBF. 🌿

# What Should Be Known About the ADL

by Lois Pearlman

A number of years ago a local civic organization wanted to host a diversity training to help the various segments of its community better understand each other, and knit them more closely together. So they decided to invite a diversity trainer from a Bay Area chapter of the Anti Defamation League (ADL) to lead the session.

Alerted to the group's plans, a few members of the community who were acquainted with the true nature of the ADL, voiced powerful objections. But the group agreed to employ the ADL trainer anyway, the person ultimately canceled and the training never happened.

So what is the problem with the ADL, which bills as the nation's premier human rights organization, and what, exactly, were the objections that these few individuals in the know had expressed?

Well, here's the story. The ADL began innocently enough in the 1910s, when Jews in the United States, many of them immigrants freshly arrived from Europe, were facing blatant anti-Semitism and overt discrimination. At that time Chicago attorney Sigmund Livingston came up with the idea of creating an organization "to stop the discrimination of the Jewish people, and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." Thus the ADL and its mission statement were born.

But over the years those noble intentions have strayed and the ADL has turned into an extensive and well-funded organization that often works with governments and other organizations to squelch the rights of many marginalized communities, both within the US and abroad. Most of the proceeding information about the ADL's activities comes from the ADL Primer, which can be found on the website of [Jewish Voice for Peace](#).

The ADL has involved itself in several areas, many of which have nothing to do with anti-Semitism. Probably most problematic for many people is its surveillance of progressive movements, sometimes in league with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or the former apartheid government of South Africa. In the 1930s the ADL carried out surveillance against groups like the National Lawyers' Guild, reporting on the group to the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities.

In 1993 the San Francisco District Attorney investigated the ADL for collecting information on nearly 10,000 individuals and 700 organizations. The ADL has also performed surveillance on such progressive groups as the United Farm Workers, the San Francisco Labor Council/AFL-CIO, the NAACP, MADRE, Greenpeace, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and groups opposing the South African Apartheid government.

But since the 1950s the ADL's primary mission to defend all Jewish people against anti-Semitism has morphed into advocating for the Jewish-only state of Israel. This not only takes the form of perpetuating the myth that criticizing the Israeli government is a form of anti-Semitism, but it also includes opposing Arab and Muslim organizations and attacking student groups on college campuses, such as students for Justice in Palestine.

It has also attempted, sometimes successfully, to prevent students and faculty from studying and teaching Palestinian perspectives and legal analyses of Israeli policies, by labeling these studies anti-Semitic. In 2012 the ADL targeted students at Florida Atlantic University, where one of them interrupted a talk by Israeli Colonel Bentzi Gruber, who has been accused of war crimes, while others

silently walked out of the room. The ADL demanded that the university punish the students, so two of them were placed on indefinite probation and required to attend a diversity training facilitated by an ADL trainer. One suspects they could have taught the trainer a lot about genuine respect for diversity.

At the high school level, the ADL attempted to block the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) from providing culturally relevant education and weekly Arab youth programming to students in the Bay Area and also tried to obstruct an Arab language pathway for K-12. The reason the ADL gave for hindering these programs was that the head of AROC was anti-Semitic because she linked anti-war activism with Israeli military policy and opposition to Israel's human rights violations. But the ADL lost these battles because all of these programs were reinstated after three years.

In ongoing efforts the ADL leverages its self-described role as a defender of Jewish people by trying to conflate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. It attacks organizations that criticize Israel and demonizes the non-violent Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions movement that seeks to use peaceful means to end Israel's occupa-

*Most of the proceeding information about the ADL's activities comes from the ADL Primer, which can be found on the website of Jewish Voice for Peace.*

tion of Palestine. Recently the ADL conducted a survey that mixed concepts that were truly anti-Semitic, like the stereotype that Jews control the world's economy, with things that are clearly just criticism of the Israel government's treatment of Palestinians. The implication, of course, was that all of these things constitute anti-Semitism.

Another issue where the ADL has extended its long, pernicious arm is the militarization of American police forces. For years it was the largest non-governmental police trainer in the country, sending members of metropolitan police forces to train in Israel. There they learned the kind of anti-terrorism, crowd control, racial profiling and surveillance techniques that the Israeli army and police employ against Palestinians. Police Chief Timothy Fitch of the St. Louis County Police Department trained with this program, and then used these methods to suppress the Ferguson Uprising following the police murder of Michael Brown Jr. After considerable protest against this training program by activists in the US, the ADL decided to suspend the program in March of 2022. But the League threatens to reinstate it.

And although the ADL promotes itself as a human rights organization that supports other minority groups, and even offers diversity training focusing on such things as Islamophobia, it has attacked Black and Muslim leaders and organizations when they seek to include Palestine as part of their progressive agenda. The ADL led campaigns against Muslim activist Linda Sansour, who was part of Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, Black Muslim Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and the largely Black Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In short it has attempted to discredit any leaders of color who have included support for Palestinian human rights as part of their agenda. ✎

# MLK EVENT STUDENT ORATORY: Power, Love, Justice

*by Esmeralda Meza, sophomore at Elsie Allen High School  
in Santa Rosa. Speech given at the Annual  
Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration event.*

“Power at its best is love implementing the demands of Justice.”

*- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Good evening to each and every one of you in attendance today to commemorate the lessons and values of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, and thank you Dr. King for giving me the chance to have the love in my heart to speak your truth. My name is Esmeralda Meza, and I am a sophomore at Elsie Allen High School. This is my speech:

Power and love working together create a positive impact on people, empowering them to demand justice where injustice lies. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice.” With this, I believe there are two types of power: Power based on control and power based on change. Power based on control is a person taking action for reasons of self-interest that only benefit themselves. Power based on change is a person taking action for reasons of love that benefit all. As I get older, I realize more and more that society is truly based on who is in control, and unfortunately, not those who wish to make change. However, who says taking action for reasons of love that benefit all cannot be the new mindset?

Power and love combined is not something most people think works in order to create positive change. But when we see it actually used, we realize it can really work. For example, take people protesting to make their voices heard about an issue or event. Some people may see crowds gathering to protest as a threat and a potential for violence, just so this group can seek attention. But in reality, this group has joined like minds as a way to speak out about the issue or event that needs to be addressed and corrected.

Unfortunately, this type of gathering to create positive change is less common and has less power in comparison to that of people who use power as a form of control. Sadly, when we think about this power of majority, we see it is mostly held by those who have more control over others, as illustrated by government, law enforcement, politicians, and big businesses. But I believe real power is not about control but about allowing one to have a voice and love to create a positive change. How much power did Rosa Parks hold in that moment at the front of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama? She stood up for herself, and because of that, she inspired others to speak out and thus began the Civil Rights Movement. She was no longer willing to be controlled by the powers that be, and she was no longer willing to have her voice go unheard. She was done living in the shadows of darkness.

As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.” In our world, we have hate and darkness, but we also have love and light. Sadly, a majority of our history has been built on hate and darkness, and I wonder why.

Why is it so easy to live in darkness and hate when all it does is create more problems and violence? Is it easier to do nothing and

live in the dark than to fight back and try to resolve problems with love and light? And for those who do choose to do something and rise from the dark, sadly, why must this be done through violence rather than with love and light? Some people may think violence is the answer because it makes people listen, but in reality it just makes people scared. Following other people due to fear is not a way to gain trust. It just creates controlled power. This type of action does not create positive, sustainable, and healthy change that leads people out of the darkness and into the light. However, if we include a component of love with that change in mind, and eliminate control, this will help us face adversity with clarity and good understanding. It will allow us to have compassion towards others and promote the strength to demand justice. If we can alter that old mindset that power means controlling others, and change it to power means love demanding justice, then we can create the changes Dr. King envisioned.

Love and power combined can create justice to change this oppressive world we live in. Ever since I was young, I knew I wanted to do something important and make a name for myself in the

*I want to make my parents proud by not only helping them out, but also helping others by using my power of love to make a positive change in our world.*

world. I want to make my parents proud by not only helping them out, but also helping others by using my power of love to make a positive change in our world. I know my power is at its best when I surround myself with light rather than darkness. And in that mental space, I then have the power to help others, which will lead to a better life for myself and society.

With all of the problems in the world, we as a community can do many things to foster this light. It is done every day when people donate food and clothing for those in need. It is done by giving one's own time just to start a campaign to speak out about some transgression. If we do not combine both our power and love, then we perish together as fools rather than live together as brothers just as Dr. King said.

We all live in the same world, we are all humans, and that is why we should be able to depend on one another and work together, rather than have just a few controlling the masses. If we cannot do that, then we will only continue to become more and more divided. Therefore, living together and working together is an action no different than constructing a puzzle. At first when the box is opened, there are just a bunch of puzzle pieces and we have no idea where each goes, but once we place a single piece down and add another piece to it, then another, and more and more, we will eventually see the whole picture of the puzzle take shape. That is real, genuine power. 🌿

# Joyful Mind Project for an Equitable and Just Society

Joyful Mind Project is a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to fostering collective and individual wellbeing. Our mission is creating an equitable and just society through compassionate action. We do this by working in solidarity with people of all backgrounds, by listening, learning, and creating spaces where health and wholeness can emerge.

Our work began in 2007, by providing mindfulness-based services to parents, children, and community groups. We received our nonprofit status in 2016 and expanded our work to include programs supporting schools and educators.

Beginning in September 2022, we launched a new mental health initiative, providing clinical services, including individual and group psychotherapy, designed to support people of all backgrounds, utilizing a liberatory framework – curated to support you in the context of your culture, community, or family.

## Our Work Together Can Support:

### *Increasing joy and reducing stress*

- Befriending anxiety with care
- Finding the wisdom of depression
- Witnessing grief & creating meaning after loss
- Fostering post-traumatic growth through intergenerational and complex trauma
- Navigating the stress and grief of post pandemic life
- Addressing and navigating climate despair
- Exploring sexual orientation and gender identity
- Transforming shame and self-criticism into self-compassion
- Body positivity, disordered eating, and decolonizing beauty standards
- Developing attentional regulation and discovering if an ADD/ADHD diagnosis is actually complex trauma
- Thriving through relationship transitions and finding strength in being self-partnered
- Creating home rhythms and a nurturance culture in your family
- Positioning current mental health challenges within oppressive and unjust systems
- Developing sustainable practices for self-empowerment and community-wide well-being

## What does Joyful Mind Project psychotherapy look like?

### *Liberation framework*

Where some models of psychotherapy place pathology within the individual, a liberatory approach applies critical consciousness, situating the psychological difficulties faced by individuals in the context of the larger cultural, racial, and socioeconomic conditions in which they are arising. Fees are sliding scale according to level of income.

### *Collaborative*

Our initial sessions are dedicated to cultivating a trusting relationship, building rapport, and assessing current psycho-spiritual needs. We'll work in partnership, collaborating to bring forward your inherent strengths or to support the growth, resilience, and empowerment of your child or teen.

### *Integrative*

Our work together will integrate elements from different schools of psychological theory and research. We might incorporate somatic mindfulness practices, dreamwork, eco-therapy, spiritual inquiry, or

other elements that support you in the context of your culture and your life.

### *An equity model based in generosity and community care*

All services are provided through an equity model, with fees ranging from \$60 to \$225 per session. When you pay at the higher end of this scale, you help make this service available to people historically denied access to mental health resources. We also work to source funding and make free services available to people who would otherwise not have access to mental health care.

### *How you can help*

Your tax-deductible contribution to [Joyful Mind Project](#) will make mental health services available to families, children and people of all backgrounds.

You may make a one-time donation or monthly contributions to support people who might not otherwise be able to access this level of support.

We also invite you to consider including Joyful Mind Project in your trust or encouraging others to do so. Legacy donations support our organization in providing services to people for a long time to come. 🙌

## Calling in the Allies, - after Ellery Akers

by Sandra Anfang

The world is a thrush with a broken wing.  
I carry it to safety.  
I call in sage bundles and native drums.

Earth's waters are tainted. I wipe their tears  
on the white skin of birches.  
I call in the wind to kiss away the sting.

I call in the barn owl to chalk its message on the sky.  
I call in grandma's scorched apron  
for gathering chestnuts and windfall plums.

I call in the World Book Encyclopedia  
whose glossy pages filled my mouth  
with Cardinal, Cedar Waxwing, Oriole.

I call in children planting Dixie cup seeds  
for pygmy beanstalks sprouting from soil  
that snake up steamy classroom walls.

I call in the black bear, a trout in its jaws.  
I call in the red vixen parting the neighbor's fence.  
I call in rain's cool cheek, washing us clean.

Sande Anfang ©2022 sandeanfangart.com/poetry  
Host of Rivertown Poets in Petaluma

# A Solution to the Deepening Crisis of Capitalism

The Party for Socialism and Liberation believes that the only solution to the deepening crisis of capitalism is the socialist transformation of society. Driven by an insatiable appetite for ever greater profits regardless of social cost, capitalism is on a collision course with the people of the world and the planet itself. Imperialist war; deepening unemployment and poverty; deteriorating health care, housing and education; racism; discrimination and violence based on gender and sexual orientation; environmental destruction – all are inevitable products of the capitalist system itself.

For the great majority of people in the world, including tens of millions of workers in the United States, conditions of life and work are worsening. There is no prospect that this situation can or will be turned around under the existing system.

The idea that the capitalists' grip on society and their increasingly repressive state can be abolished through any means other than a revolutionary overturn is an illusion. Equally unrealistic are reformist hopes for a "kinder, gentler" capitalism, or solutions based on economic decentralization or small group autonomy. Meeting the

needs of the more than 6.5 billion people who inhabit the planet today is impossible without large-scale agriculture, industry and economic planning.

The fundamental problems confronting humanity today flow from the reality that most of the world's productive wealth – the product of socialized labor and nature – is privately owned and controlled by a tiny minority. This minority decides what will be produced and what will not. Its decisions are based on making profits rather than meeting human needs.

There are really only two choices for humanity today – an increasingly destructive capitalism, or socialism.

The North Bay unit of PSL holds an open discussion group at the Peace and Justice Center on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7 pm. We invite anyone who is interested in building socialism, exploring politics from a left perspective and discussing the failures of capitalism.

Follow us on [Instagram](#). Sign up for [email updates](#).

Bay Area Branch contact: [sf@pslweb.org](mailto:sf@pslweb.org) 📧

## Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories... from page 3

Women's stories, and the larger human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections with each other.

According to Molly MacGregor one of the founders of the National Women's History Alliance, throughout 2023, the NWAH will encourage recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more. The timely theme honors women in every community who have devoted their lives and talents to producing art, pursuing truth, and reflecting the human condition decade after decade.

"At this time when a women's right to choose is being threatened, it is important that our voices be heard and let it be known we, will not go backwards, we want to go forward," said MacGregor. She also encourages people to [visit their website](#) to find out more about women's history and resources.

MacGregor encourages local communities throughout the country to use the year's theme to guide their own celebrations. The NWAH will popularize national efforts through online celebrations, a special magazine, and thematic products that recognize and honor

these brave, accomplished, and influential women who told – and continue to tell – our stories.

"Our History is our Strength and we must never lose sight of that," said MacGregor. NWAH is committed to a multicultural women's history perspective by honoring women of diverse cultural, ethnic, occupational, racial, class, and regional backgrounds.

To kickoff Women's History Month on March 6 Molly Murphy MacGregor will be interviewed on Women's Spaces on KBBF 89.1FM from 11-12pm, repeating at 11pm. This is the first of a series of interviews during women's history month honoring ordinary women doing extraordinary things.

A bit of Sonoma County Trivia provided by Paula Freund, curator for the website, [Petaluma Pioneers](#). There were four Petaluma suffragists mentioned in Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joslyn Gage's 1881 *History of Woman Suffrage*. In the chapter dedicated to California, it proclaims, "Sonoma County has a few fearless friends of Woman Suffrage... In Petaluma, Mrs. A. A. Haskell, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hatch, Kate Lovejoy and Mrs. Judge Latimer organized a society in 1869."

*Elaine B. Holtz is host/producer with Ken Norton of "Women's Spaces" on KBBF 89.1FM Monday 11am to noon and repeats at 11pm to midnight. Visit her website at: [womenspaces.com](http://womenspaces.com) Become a fan on FB. 📧*

## Step Up to the Plate... from page 8

If you are interested in being a part of this vital work, which, sadly, meets constant resistance from the sheriff's office, please contact your supervisor. If you'd like to be the at-large member, please contact John Alden at IOLERO, [John.Alden@sonoma-county.org](mailto:John.Alden@sonoma-county.org)

The Public is encouraged to attend the Community Advisory Council Retreat, Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 am to 2 pm at the Human Resources Training Room in the County's office complex, 575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, on the north side of the building. It is an in-person event, not virtual or hybrid. Seeking input from the public about the priorities the CAC should pursue this next year, to plan out its work for the next year or so.



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## High Time To Rise Up!... from page 1

Our elected officials in Congress who are supposed to exercise control over the military have not only been neutered, they have been converted into cheerleaders, abrogating their duty of intelligent restraint of the military. Moreover, the historic legacy of Democrats being the more cautious of our two-party system when it came to military spending has been brought to an end. The military industrial complex that Eisenhower warned us about has, like a cancer, metastasized, having thoroughly infected both political parties. We only have one party now: the war party. Witness the blank check given to the weapons manufacturers to fuel the Ukraine conflict, with Democrats upping the allocation given, exceeding the requested amount. This while inflation is skyrocketing at home, causing untold suffering for an already struggling civilian population.

A report from the Institute for Policy Studies calculates that the cost of US militarization in the last 20 years is a staggering \$21 TRILLION, with about half of that going to military contractors. The FY budget for 2023 allocates \$858 billion for the Pentagon and nuclear weapons, and \$772.5 billion for all domestic discretionary programs. Even a portion of that \$21 trillion could fund sorely needed projects here at home. Just a few examples: \$4.5 trillion could fully decarbonize the US electric grid; \$2.3 trillion could create 5 million jobs at \$15 per hour with benefits and cost-of-living adjustments for 10 years; and, \$25 billion could provide COVID vaccines for the populations of low-income countries.

There are many words available to describe what our government has turned into. Words like ‘corporatocracy’, ‘kleptocracy’, and so forth. One you might not have heard of (yet) is ‘militocracy’. A militocracy is a military government, or a military dictatorship. Actually, if you think about it, all of these descriptors for our government are applicable. Our democracy has turned into a sham. A ruse.

“I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore.” These words are from the 1975 movie classic, *Network*, where a newscaster played by actor Howard Beale realizes “...that the system co-opts both social and economic power to its own advantage.” The movie shows that while Howard is not alone in his sentiment, his call to action falls on deaf ears. We’re indoctrinated to believe that there’s simply nothing that we ‘commoners’ can do about the situation. That is what the ruling elites would like you to believe. But it’s simply not true. Erica Chenoweth, a political scientist at Harvard University, has demonstrated how a governed population can overturn elite agendas via civil disobedience by just 3.5% of a population. If you were to follow other countries populist politics, you would find that mass civil disobedience is not unusual. Not only that, it oftentimes results in transformative change, including where entire governments, doing the bidding of ruling elites, fall.

In addition to a nuclear Armageddon looming in our present moment, we also have the largest disaster of all time unfolding before us: climate instability. The fact that electoral politics have resulted in the complete and total absence of true leadership, taking known steps to address the climate instability emergency, is stupefying. Surrealistic, really. Add to this the realization, that wars are being fought for the spoils of what is rapidly becoming a dead and dying planet, is more than most of us can get our head around. We are rendered powerless, through learned helplessness, thanks to the psyops of the ruling elites. While they’re making arrangements for their survivalist habitats, using the profits from their ‘business as usual’ economism, the rest of us are left to fend for ourselves.

So here we sit, with an ‘out of control’ military industrial complex, and a government ignoring the climate instability emergency, even as the impacts are accelerating all around us. That our sociopolitical milieu has reached this level of depravity should make us mad as hell. I leave you with this quote: “*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.*” – Edmund Burke

Sources: [rootsaction.org](https://rootsaction.org), [nationalinterest.org](https://nationalinterest.org), [ips-dc.org](https://ips-dc.org), [nationalpriorities.org](https://nationalpriorities.org), [ips-dc.org](https://ips-dc.org), [psychologytoday.com](https://psychologytoday.com), [bbc.com](https://bbc.com)  
*Christian Stalberg is active in green technology development & intentional communities.*

## Free Julian Assange... from page 6

on any media or give lectures, publicize this issue. Write to your Congressman or other representatives, letters or articles in newspapers and magazines, call in to a radio show... and you can remind everyone about Article 4 of the US-UK extradition treaty: “Extradition shall not be granted if the offense for which extradition is requested is a political offense.” Julian Assange is a political prisoner. They are breaking the law!

The plan I’ve thought of: We need to discover the exact place and time of his extradition, if it happens, and thousands need to surround Julian Assange and physically not allow the authorities to take him away. I have seen this done – and been part of it – and succeeded defying police at actions, saving fellow organizers from detention.

We must do everything we can to make sure that Julian Assange is free!

Sources: Wikipedia: Wikileaks; As the Obama DOJ Concluded, Prosecution of Julian Assange for Publishing Documents Poses Grave Threat to Press Freedom, [Glenn Greenwald, The Intercept](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/11/16/obamas-justice-department-concludes-prosecution-of-julian-assange-for-publishing-documents-poses-grave-threat-to-press-freedom/) 11/16/18; Julian Assange appeals to European Court over US extradition, [Michael Holden, Reuters](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/julian-assange-appeals-to-european-court-over-us-extradition-2022-12-02/) 12/2/22; Stella Assange [#FreeAssangeNOW @Stella\\_Assange](https://twitter.com/Stella_Assange), Twitter; [CODEPINK.org](https://codepink.org); [democracynow.org](https://democracynow.org); [Global Carnival for Assange](https://www.globalcarnivalforassange.com/), February 11, 2023, [Redazione Italia](https://www.redazioneitalia.com/) 1/14/23; James Kennedy podcast, [Stella Assange interview](https://www.stellaassange.com/); Major News Outlets Urge US to Drop its Charges Against Assange, Charlie Savage, [New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/28/us/politics/julian-assange-appeals.html) 11/28/22.

*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 also read his writing on [CounterPunch](https://www.counterpunch.org/), at [counterpunch.org/archives/author/s name](https://www.counterpunch.org/archives/author/s-name/), and his website, with ~100 articles, poetry, political fantasy stories, and much humor/satire, at [Patreon.com/BarryBarnett](https://www.patreon.com/BarryBarnett), all free of charge to read (or can support his work for as little as \$1/month). 🐦*

## 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 April. Deadline for submission of articles on topics of social Justice and peace, is March 16. Articles are proofed and lightly edited for grammar, spelling. The finished *Peace Press* needs 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.





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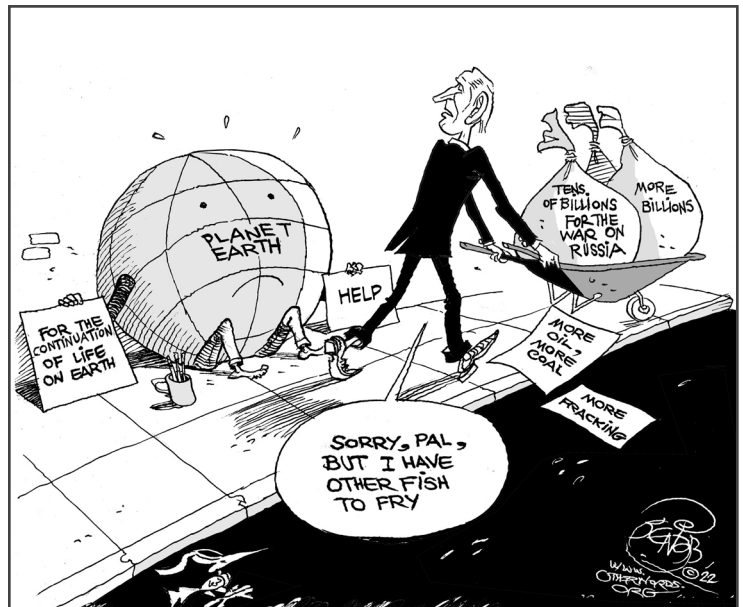
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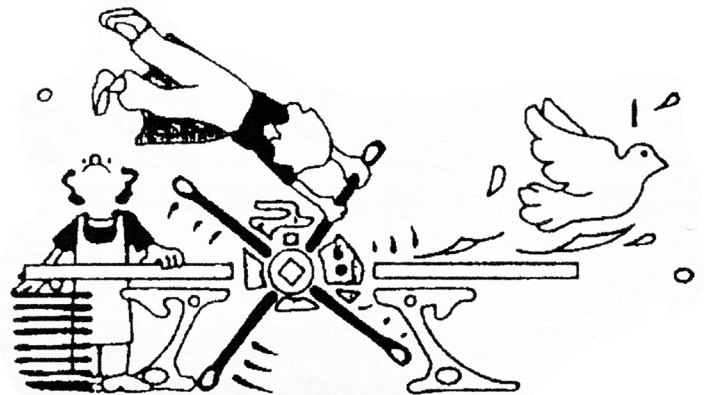
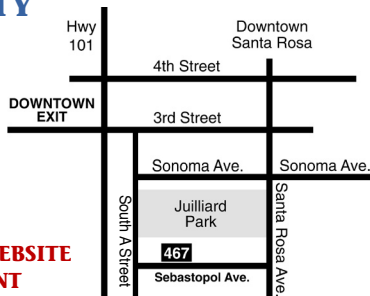
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