

changeLinks

STOP THE WARS! PEACE, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL!

More Information About These and Other Events in Calendar, beginning p. 3:

Mon-Fri Feb 5-9:
Decolonization, Hurricanes & Solidarity: Oscar Lopez Rivera So Cal Tour

Feb 8-19: Pan African Film & Arts Festival, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

Thu Feb 8, 6-8:30p
Future of Health Care Forum

Sat Feb 17, 6:30p
Black History film showing "I Am Not Your Negro"

Sun Feb 18, 10:30a
KPFK Local Station Board

Feb 23-25, San Diego
Feel the Bern @ Democratic Convention

Feb 28: CCEJ Breakfast

LAPD escalating abuse goes viral
<https://www.facebook.com/brockisamazing/videos/10210805149267030/>

LAPD Chief Beck is Going; DA Lacey Must Go!

Ed: Chief Chuckie Beck announced his early retirement. #BLMLA has been pushing for him & DA Jackie Lacey to go, so killer cops can be held accountable. Here's background:

by Adam Smith White People 4 Black Lives

In reading Kate Mather's *LA Times* article "LAPD Take Another Step Toward Deploying Drones In Controversial Yearlong Test," (Jan. 9), I think it's worth pointing out that the civilian-led Los Angeles Police Commission <http://www.lapdonline.org/police_commission> right now functions more as a rubber-stamp approval body



D.A. Jackie Lacey and Chief Beck for the LAPD than it does as a body representative of the public at-large.

Among other things, the Mayor Garcetti-appointed commissioners are tasked with approving weekly reports by the LAPD, approving budget requests, and determining whether or not to recommend charges against officers in cases of officer-involved shootings, a statistic the LAPD regularly leads all US police departments in.

How can residents of LA take seriously a board tasked with civilian oversight [and seeking a new chief-Ed.] when its president sits on the board of a foundation that gives money to a group that exists solely to provide funds and equipment like new drones to the LAPD, unencumbered by city budget oversight?

See: "LAPC Fails," p. 7

The Missing Message in the Women's March

By Cindy Sheehan & Rick Sterling
<http://resumen-english.org/2018/01/the-missing-message-in-the-womens-march/>

Editors of *Resumen LatinoAmericano*: The large women's marches that took place in the US to mark a year of the Trump Administration were primarily organized by elements of the Democratic Party. The energy in the streets was strong and positive but the political message was to channel that into Dems winning back congress in the 2018 mid term elections. The Democrats are every bit a party of continuous war as are the Republicans. The solution is not voter registration drives but building a mass independent movement.

Resumen LatinoAmericano, PO Box 22455, Oakland 94609, englishresumen@gmail.com.



The March will speak out against hate, discrimination, and exploitation. That's good. The March will also speak out strongly in favor of equality, women's reproductive choice and respect for all people regardless of disability, gender, orientation, etc. That's also good.

But the subject of U.S. military aggression and war is essential. We hope many marchers will include this in their signage. Despite many antiwar groups actively advocating for "peace" to be in the platform/demands of the March, this is the second year peace is being minimized or ignored by the organizers.

For the past century or more, the US has intervened against governments the establishment does not like. A partial list includes Philippines, Korea, Guatemala, Iran, Cuba, Chile, Vietnam, Angola, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Lebanon, Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan, Iraq, Venezuela, Honduras, Libya and Syria!

These acts have killed millions of people including thousands of our own youth, both women and men. They have resulted in hundreds of thousands returning injured physically or psychologically. Mothers, wives, sisters, aunts, and others have been profoundly and unnecessarily handed a lifetime of pain and sorrow because of the US war machine.

Shouldn't it be a priority to change the policies and acts of economic aggression and military intervention that result in violence, war and destruction? Shouldn't we address the causes of the refugee crisis as well as the symptom? After all, most refugees never wanted to leave their homelands.

See: "Missing Message," p. 7

Decolonization, Hurricanes & Solidarity: Oscar López Rivera Tours Southern California Feb 5-9

by Lawrence Reyes, Puerto Rican Alliance

As Puerto Rico faces its most severe, existential crisis after 120 years as a militarily-occupied colony of the United States, Oscar Lopez Rivera, a recently-released Puerto Rican political prisoner held by the US, is coming



to southern California to discuss Puerto Rican resistance and recovery efforts from the devastating impact of a triple whammy: Hurricane Maria, debt to Wall Street hedge funds, and the US response of seeking to de-populate the island.

López Rivera is an inspiring example of the power of principled commitment and resistance to oppression and repression. He is known as a Latin American Mandela. A decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, he served more than 35 years in federal prison for his commitment to independence for Puerto Rico; post-release, he is more dedicated than ever to serving his homeland and its working people.

Oscar López Rivera brings word of the historic struggle of all Puerto Ricans, and particularly Puerto Rican workers, on the island and in the US, for human dignity and economic rights, and of the current self-determined efforts at the grassroots to meet people's needs, as FEMA has denied funds for local recovery even in the form of loans, but has spent money on a ship to transport Puerto Ricans from their homeland to the mainland. Puerto Ricans are being used as a new source of low wage labor to replace immigrants being deported by Trump.

The hurricane and its aftermath have worsened the existing problems. Despite the efforts of organized labor, working people in Puerto Rico get a smaller share of total income than do their counterparts here in the U.S. Thousands of jobs are threatened by the onerous "PROMESA" Fiscal Control Board. Effectively a junta mainly appointed by the Republican-dominated US Congress, it oversees the budget and government spending in Puerto Rico in order to meet the demands of Wall Street and hedge funds for debt repayment. Unlike US states and municipalities, Puerto Rico is denied by the US Congress the power to arrange for an orderly court-supervised bankruptcy process, and so its creditors get first claim on its funds, forcing the closing of schools and other essential services, and lay-offs of workers.

Upon finally being freed, López Rivera was greeted by tens of thousands of cheering Puerto Ricans. Since his release in May 2017, López Rivera has worked to provide community and labor aid for recovery in Puerto Rico, as well as addressing the needs of the Puerto Rican diaspora in the U.S. as he did in the years before his incarceration. This tour is raising funds for the Oscar López Rivera Foundation (Fundación Oscar López Rivera-Libertá) to support its important work and relief efforts. You can donate directly to support the Foundation, by writing a check made out to GLACTS (Great Lakes Asian Center for Theologies and Strategies) (Fiscal Agent for Oscar Lopez Rivera Foundation) and mailing it to: Fundación Oscar López Rivera-Libertá, c/o Toby Emmer, 483 17th Street, #2A, Brooklyn NY 11215.

TOUR ITINERARY

Mon Feb 5: afternoon - UC Santa Barbara; eve - Casa de la Raza
Tue Feb 6: AM - CSU Channel Islands (Ventura); afternoon- CSUN; 5:30pm Labor/legal reception, 7pm Community event: Maya Angelou HS, 300 E. 53rd St., 90011
Wed Feb 7: AM - Pasadena City College; afternoon CSULA; 5:30p Reception - Kirk Douglas Theater, Culver City
Thu Feb 8: 12n - Pomona College (Claremont CA) evening - UCLA
Fri Feb 9: 7am - ICUJP w/ Rev. Lawson (Immanuel Presb.) afternoon: Chapman University (Santa Ana) evening: San Diego community event

For more information and to schedule media events and interviews, please call 310-460-8586. More information about Oscar López Rivera and the colonial case of Puerto Rico is available here: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gacol3312.doc.htm>. Updated information about the Southern California visit itinerary is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/163039650972667/>

Pentagon Strategy for Military Confrontation with Russia and China

By Bill Van Auken [excerpts] <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/01/20/ndst-j20.html> [Excerpts]

Trump's defense secretary, former Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, rolled out a new National Defense Strategy in Jan. that signals open preparations by US imperialism for direct military confrontation with nuclear-armed Russia and China. Mattis made clear that the strategy, the first such issued by the Pentagon in roughly a decade, represented a shift from the justification for US global militarism for nearly two decades: the so-called war on terrorism.

"Great power competition—not terrorism—is now the primary focus of US national security," Mattis said as he released an 11-page declassified document outlining the National Defense Strategy. A lengthier classified version submitted to Congress includes the Pentagon's detailed proposals for a massive increase in military spending.

It echoed terms in the National Security Strategy document unveiled the previous month in a fascist speech by Trump. Mattis insisted the US was facing "growing threat from revisionist powers as different as China and Russia, that seek to create a world consistent with their authoritarian models."

The defense strategy accuses China of seeking "Indo-Pacific regional hegemony in the near-term and displacement of the US to achieve global preeminence in the future." Russia, it charges, is attempting to achieve "veto authority over nations on its periphery in terms of their governmental, economic, and diplomatic decisions, to shatter NATO and change European and Middle East security and economic structures to its favor."

"China is a strategic competitor using predatory economics to intimidate its neighbors while militarizing features in the South China Sea," it states. "Russia has violated the borders of nearby nations." In what appeared to be a threat against both Russia and China, Mattis warned, "If you challenge us, it will be your longest and worst day."

Both Moscow and Beijing issued statements condemning the US defense strategy. A Chinese spokesman denounced the document as a return to a "Cold War mentality." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told a UN press conference: "It is regrettable that instead of having a normal dialog, instead of using the basis of international law, the US is indeed striving to prove their leadership through such confrontational strategies and concepts." A government spokesman in Moscow characterized the document as "imperialistic."

Like the National Security Strategy, the defense strategy singles out North Korea and Iran as "rogue regimes," charging them with destabilizing regions through their "pursuit of nuclear weapons or sponsorship of terrorism." It accuses Tehran of "competing with its neighbors, asserting an arc of influence and instability while vying for regional hegemony."

The document calls for the preparation for war across what it describes as "three key regions": the Indo-Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East. The document also makes brief references to Latin America and Africa, asserting the necessity of US imperialism striving for hegemony on both continents. It makes clear that these continents are arenas for the global "great power" struggle that forms the core of the strategy, asserting that a key aim in Africa is to "limit the malign influence of non-African powers."

What emerges is a vision of US imperialism besieged on all sides and in danger of losing global dominance. It reflects the thinking among the retired and active-duty generals who dominate the Trump administration's foreign policy that the past 16 years of unending wars in the Middle East and Central Asia have failed to further US strategic interests, creating debacles while grinding down the US military.

"Today, we are emerging from a period of strategic atrophy, aware that our competitive military advantage has been eroding," the document states. "We are facing increased global disorder, characterized by decline in the long-standing rules-based international order—creating a security environment more complex and volatile than any we have experienced in recent memory. Inter-state strategic competition, not terrorism, is now the primary concern in U.S. national security."

The Pentagon's aim, according to the defense strategy, is to ensure that the US remains "the preeminent military power in the world" able to "ensure the balance of power remains in our favor," "advance an international order that is most conducive to our security and prosperity" and "preserve access to markets."

The thrust of the document is a demand for a vast buildup of the American war machine, which already spends more than the next eight countries combined, nearly triple the military spending of China and roughly eight times Russia's. Despite having siphoned trillions out of the US economy to pay for the past 16 years of war, Mattis and the defense strategy present the American military as an institution that has been virtually starved of resources, unable to meet "readiness, procurement, and modernization requirements."

The objective in terms of modernization is the buildup of the US "nuclear triad"—intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and strategic bombers, capable of destroying life on the planet many times over. The Pentagon will seek to upgrade all aspects of its nuclear war-fighting apparatus, "including nuclear command, control, and communications, and supporting infrastructure." It added, "Modernization of the nuclear force includes developing options to counter competitors' coercive strategies, predicated on the threatened use of nuclear or strategic non-nuclear attacks." In other words, the US military is prepared to launch a nuclear war in response to a conventional or cyber attack.

Mattis's speech had a strong element of resentment toward civilian government and its constitutional control over the military. He described US troops being compelled to "stoically carry a 'success at any cost' attitude, as they worked tirelessly to accomplish the mission with inadequate and misaligned resources simply because the Congress could not maintain regular order." Mattis warned that the war plans outlined in the document will require "sustained investment by the American people," noting that "past generations" had been compelled to make "harsher sacrifices." Sacrifices will no doubt include cuts to Social Security and Medicare.

Driven by the crisis of their system, the US capitalist ruling class and its military are preparing for a world war fought with nuclear weapons.

February 2018, Vol. 24 Number 9

IN MEMORY OF



Co-founder & Editor John Johnson,
b. July 4, 1944 - d. April 13, 2014

Editorial Staff: Nia Asante, Terrie Brady, Donna Buell, Uncle Don B. Fanning, Greg Foisie, Sheila Goldner, Jeff Hirsch, Ray Jones, Michael Novick, Dean Ruby, Ron Spriestersbach, David Troy & others.

Deadline for articles and ads is the 15th,
deadline for calendar items is the 20th
of the month before publication.

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This is an independent collective activity. We welcome your involvement to keep the paper and website alive. Views expressed in Change-Links are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of Change-Links, its volunteers, or sponsors. Letters of comment are welcome!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If you can help collect items for the monthly calendar, do print layout or handle a wordpress website, or do copy editing and proof-reading -- Change Links needs you! Please email changelinks2@gmail.com to volunteer and learn more. We hope you will step up if you value the paper!

Our next meeting is Wed., Feb. 14, 7:30pm, at the Peace Center, to plan the March 2018 issue. The last weekend each month, we gather at the Peace Center on Thursday at 7:30 PM for a mailing and bundle-distribution party and a discussion about the following month's issue. The next such meeting will take place Thurs., March 1, to distribute the March issue, assuming we can produce it, and discuss the April issue.

We have poetry in each issue; send submissions to: changelinks2@gmail.com. Please include a bio & photo.

Submit articles, preferably in .doc format, to: changelinks2@gmail.com.

Calendar items to same address, (Change-Links calendar item in subject line); include title of event, day, date, time, location, fee if any, a short description, contact information for sponsors, and a small jpg graphic if you have one. Please spell out all words and capitalize street names, etc.

A \$5 donation for calendar items is appreciated. Payable to AFGJ/Change Links at the address below:

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Change-Links Monthly Poetry Corner

The War In America

by Bill Crossman
I didn't see the war in America
when I was four
dressed in my soldier suit posing
for photos on my Dad's shoulder
at the Carolina Base
my eyes drawn past the barracks at
Black men in stripes and shackles
stumbling off the flatbed truck at the edge
of the woods, their clanking chains
in the turpentine pines around us
laying a silence
as Black women
boiling lye and fat for soap
set aside paddles, Black pitch-gatherers
rested machetes to watch
the prisoners scythe the drill ground in
bitter
rhythm
this war my eyes were seeing I didn't see
when I was four
watching skies for signs of invasion by
foreign powers, confident that war if it came

would come from over there,
overseas
from my Dad's shoulder I
smiled at the camera thinking
war
almost over
soon
we'd go home to
Connecticut



Crossman in white hat, center. Photo: Bill Hackwell

These striking poems reflect a value thread through Crossman's life that began when, at age two, Bill and his mother left their suburban Connecticut home to follow his father—who'd been recruited into the Army at the start of World War II—to camps in the Deep South. After four years in segregated Mississippi, Florida and North Carolina, the family returned to Connecticut and Bill's first three grades in school, only to quickly return to the South and settle in a segregated, whites-only, working-class, south Florida town. For nine years, Bill attended the whites-only public school system, graduating in 1957 before heading North to college. Bill's daily experiences of racism and white supremacy during those southern years helped to shape his values and life choices. In 1969, Bill left his position teaching philosophy at Tufts University to move to the Bay Area to work in solidarity with the Black Panthers and the revolutionary Black prisoners' movement. Through the decades, he's remained active in anti-imperialist movements and in support of political prisoners. Bill has continued to teach at Bay Area community colleges and universities, and for eight years during the 1990s he taught at historically-Black Morris Brown College in Atlanta, GA. Bill continues his decades-long commitment to revolutionary culture via his work as poet, jazz pianist, playwright (including his musical, John Brown's Truth), and author of writings on the political impact of new technologies on literacy.

Southern California Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 2018

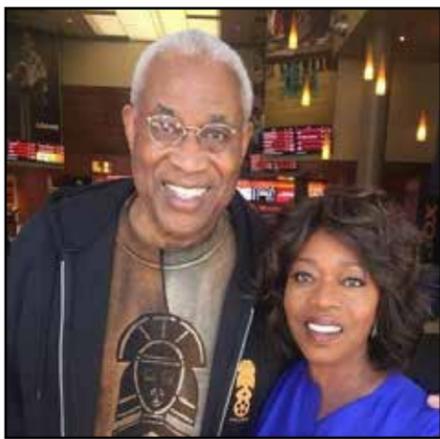
Listings subject to change. Contact sponsor to verify date, time & venue. See www.change-links.org for full late listings, recurring events, & resources.

Ongoing events

Tuesdays, 8-10p, EPFC ON THE AIR: OPTICAL TRACK ON DUBLAB.COM Optical Track is a weekly show presented by members of the Echo Park Film Center Co-op, a group of artists who collectively staff EPFC as volunteers for the cinematic revolution. Each week we bring you a sonic slideshow as we turn off the projector bulbs and turn up the sound. Optical Track is live on air Tuesdays 8 – 10 pm and archived at dublab.com

Feb 5-9: Decolonization, Hurricanes & Solidarity with Puerto Rico: Oscar López Rivera's Southern California Tour (see overall itinerary on p.1 and check daily listings below. For more information, <https://www.favebook.com/puertoricansinaction/events>, www.puertoricansinaction.com, oscarlopezsocaltour@gmail.com, 310-460-8586.

Feb 8-19: The 26th Annual Pan African Film + Arts Festival at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, 3650 W Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, LA 90008. Film schedule here: <https://www.paff.org/films/#!/> ArtFEST Hours, February 8-19, 2018: Mon-Fri: 10a-9p; Sat: 10a-9p; Sun: 11a-7p. PAFF's goal to present and showcase the broad spectrum of Black creative works, particularly those that reinforce positive images and help destroy negative stereotypes. We believe film and art can lead to better understanding and



Ayuko Babu of PAFF with Alfre Woodard

foster communication between peoples of diverse cultures, races, and lifestyles, while at the same time serve as a vehicle to initiate dialogue on the important issues of our times. Established in 1992, PAFF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the promotion of cultural understanding among peoples of African descent. PAFF is dedicated to racial tolerance through the exhibition of film, art and creative expression. Contact info: 6820 La Tijera Blvd, Suite 200, LA 90045; info@paff.org, 310-337-4737, Fax: 310-337-4736

Through Feb 25: "Another Promised Land: Anita Brenner's Mexico" at Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90049, (310) 440-4500. A new perspective on the art and visual culture of Mexico and its relationship to the United States as seen through the life and work of the Mexican-born, American Jewish writer Anita Brenner (1905–1974). Brenner was an integral part of the circle of Mexican modernists in the 1920s and played an important role in promoting and translating Mexican art, culture, and history for audiences in the United States. Brenner was close to the leading intellectuals and artists active in Mexico, including José Clemente Orozco, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Jean Charlot, and Tina Modotti. An influential and prolific writer on Mexican culture, Brenner is best known for her book *Idols Behind Altars: Modern Mexican Art and Its Cultural Roots* (1929). The Skirball's exhibition will provide an immersive experience of



Anita Brenner, c. 1926

historic discovery and underscore Brenner's importance as a Jewish woman in Mexico who inspired artists and was instrumental in introducing the North American public to Mexican history and culture.

Ofrece una nueva perspectiva sobre la cultura artística y visual de México y su relación con los Estados Unidos desde el punto de vista de la vida y obra de la escritora judío-estadounidense nacida en México, Anita Brenner (1905–1974). Brenner fue una parte integral del círculo de modernistas mexicanos en los años veinte y tuvo un rol importante en la promoción y la traslación del arte, la cultura y la historia mexicana a la audiencia de los Estados Unidos. Brenner fue amiga cercana de líderes intelectuales y artistas activos en México, entre los cuales se incluyen a José Clemente Orozco, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Jean Charlot y Tina Modotti. Siendo una influyente y prolífica escritora

sobre la cultura mexicana, Brenner es más conocida por su libro *Idols Behind Altars: Modern Mexican Art and Its Cultural Roots* (1929) (Ídolos tras los altares: arte moderno mexicano y sus raíces culturales). La exposición en Skirball ofrecerá una experiencia de inmersión de descubrimiento histórico y enfatizará la importancia de Brenner como mujer judía en México, la cual inspiró a artistas y fue instrumental en la introducción de la historia y cultura mexicanas al público norteamericano.

Thru May 6: Stories of Almost Everyone: an exhibition about the willingness to believe the stories that are conveyed by works of contemporary art. In recent years, a continued emphasis on an art of ideas—inherited from the legacies of conceptual and post-conceptual artistic practice—has sought to further develop strategies in the service of communicating social, political, and economic histories. This exhibition is organized around the premise that objects of contemporary art possess narrative histories and inner lives that the conventions of display can only, at best, approximate. Through the work of over thirty international artists, *Stories of Almost Everyone* seeks to address the means by which a broad range of contemporary artworks and artifacts traffic in meaning and mythology in equal measure. The varying artistic approaches brought together for this exhibition are as equally emboldened by a faith in objects to communicate their inherent value, as they are skeptical of the conditions of museological mediation and art's promise to convey meaning. *Stories of Almost Everyone* is organized by Aram Moshayedi, curator, with Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi, curatorial assistant. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd. LA 90024, (310) 443-7000, info@hammer.ucla.edu

Feb 1 - Thu

CSUN Sustainability-Tea, 2-3p, Sustainability Center, Cal State U Northridge, Free. These monthly informal meetings stimulate interdisciplinary conversations about pressing sustainability challenges the world faces, and how we might prepare for and address those challenges. Some topics we'll discuss in our monthly meetings include the implementation of our Climate Action Plan, research and grant opportunities related to sustainability, and this month, we'll focus on the topic of urban resilience. Coffee and tea will be served – BYOMug.

OPEN SCREEN - 8p, Echo Park Film Center, 1200 N. Alvarado St, LA 90026, (213) 484-8846, www.echoparkfilmcenter.org Come share your film with the feisty EPFC audience! We love new work, old work, works in progress, every genre, every style! Sign up for an up-to-10-minute maximum limit time slot, one film per filmmaker. First come, first screened. DVD, Quicktime, VHS, mini-DV, DV-CAM, Super 8, Standard 8mm, 16mm.

Open House! hosted by Ground Game-LA and KNOCK, 7:30-9:30p, 5617 Hollywood Blvd, LA 90028-6809. <https://www.facebook.com/events/171936566755092/>

Feb 2 - Fri

LA For Youth, 4-6p, 1726 N. Spring Street, LA 90013; action@youth4justice.org, (323) 235-4243. Contact: Tanisha Denard at: (323) 331-8469, tanishadenard@youth4justice.org. Establish L.A. County and City Departments of Youth Development; Fund 100 youth centers, 1,000 full time peace builders in schools and communities, and 50,000 youth jobs by diverting 5% of law enforcement/jail budgets.

Los Angeles Poverty Department's Movie Nights at the Museum, 7p, Skid Row History Museum and Archive, 250 S. Broadway, LA 90012. Free movie screenings, free popcorn, free coffee & free conversation. Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, we screen movies about issues that are important to our Skid Row and downtown community at the [#skidrowmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/skidrowmuseum). **"Civic Art: Four Stories from South Los Angeles"** A film by Mark Escribano and Sara Daleiden, s(o)ul. Filmmaker and artist Sara Daleiden will be there for post screening conversation with Lanetta Kimmons of LA Dept of Recreation & Parks and Eddie Howard of the Skid Row Parks Committee!



A scene from "Civic Art"

Feb 3 - Sat

Voices from Leimert Park at Avenue 50, Hosted by Mike Sonksen and 4 others, 7:45-9:45p, Avenue 50 Studio, 131 N Avenue 50, LA 90042. 10 poets from the new anthology, "Voices from Leimert Park" will be sharing their work. Poets include AK Toney, Peter J. Harris, Niki Billingslea, Lynn Bronstein,

Southern California Community Calendar continued...

Derek Brown, Angela Franklin, Billy Burgos, Peggy Dobrer, Jerry Garcia & Mary Torregrossa. Hosted by MtP and other surprise guests may read as well.

Feb 4 - Sun

Family Flicks Film Series: Buggy Malone, 11a, Hammer Museum Billy Wilder Theater, free. Recommended for ages 8+. In answer to his kids' complaints that they weren't allowed to see *The Godfather*, director Alan Parker reimagined Prohibition-era Chicago and the exploits of Al Capone as a toe-tapping musical with an all-kid cast and pie fights in place of gun battles. Jodie Foster and Scott Baio lead the cast as a



torch singer and a tough guy who defend their speakeasy from a rival gang, set to the catchy rhythms of Paul Williams's songs. (1976, dir. Alan Parker, 35mm, 93 min.)

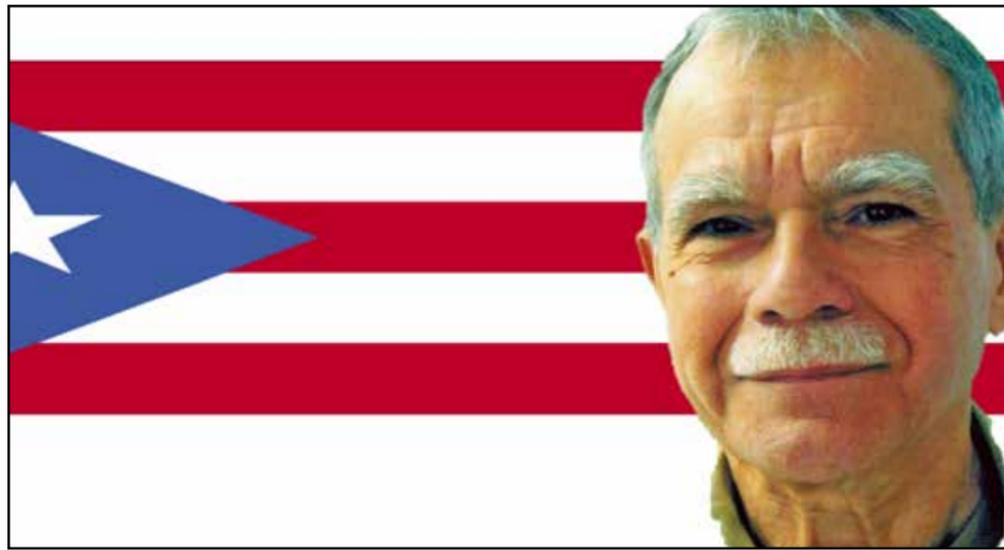
The Black Book, Volume IV: Black Love in the Hour of Chaos, 3p, Hammer Museum, free. Using film clips, music videos, excerpts from literature, and samples from social media, Tisa Bryant and Ernest Hardy celebrate black love in all its forms: romantic, familial, friendly, communal. This dense but fast-moving presentation looks at the creation, manifestation, nurturing, and resilience of black love in the face of white supremacy and anti-blackness across generations. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. LA 90024, (310) 443-7000, info@hammer.ucla.edu

Feb 5 - Mon

Decolonization, Hurricanes and Solidarity with Puerto Rico: Oscar Lopez Rivera Speaks @ UC Santa Barbara, Lunch with faculty & students, 12n; Presentation, 3:30-4:45p, UCSB Girvetz 1004, Prof Fujino's race & resistance class. **6-9p, Community cultural event at La Casa de la Raza**, 601 E Montecito St, Santa Barbara, CA 93103 - talk, book sale and signing.

Reunión General | General Meeting, L.A. Tenants Union. 7-9p, 3303 Wilshire Blvd, LA 90010-1705

Feb 6 - Tue



Decolonization, Hurricanes and Solidarity with Puerto Rico: Oscar Lopez Rivera speaks @ 10:30a-12n, CSU Channel Islands, 1 University Dr, Camarillo, CA 93012, Prof. Barajas, Chicano Studies/History dept.; **2-4p, CSUN** (Cal State Northridge) 18111 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA 91330, Ferman Presentation Room (#81), located in the Oviatt Library; and **5:30p private reception \$25-45** sliding scale, 180 E. 35th St. Advance tickets : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/private-reception-with-oscar-lopez-rivera-limited-tickets-tickets-42342401262>; **7p, LA community event @ Dr. Maya Angelou Community HS**, 300 E. 53rd St., LA 90011. Cultural presentations, bomba y plena, Matt Sedillo and more, talk, book sale and signing. Contact: oscarlopezsocaltour@gmail.com; 310-460-8586

McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club, 6p, Marina Del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way, MDR. <http://laughtears.com/McLuhanWake.html> Article on WAKE 22nd year: <http://argonautnews.com/decrypting-finnegans-wake/> "Finnegans Wake is more than a book...it contains the world. So owning it is like having the essence of everything. I feel like it might just as well be a Sumerian text." - Patti Smith

Drone-Free LAPD/No Drones, LA Campaign Meeting, 6:30p, LA CAN, 838 E.6th St DTLA (x-street Gladys). Stop LAPD Spying Coalition 562-230-4578 stoplapdspying@gmail.com www.stoplapdspying.org

ACLU online Criminal Justice Reform Webinar, 6p. <https://action.aclu.org/california/aclu-training-for-change-makers>

Feb 7 - Wed

Decolonization, Hurricanes and Solidarity with Puerto Rico: Oscar Lopez Rivera speaks @ Pasadena City College, 9-11a, 1570 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91106, Westerbeck Hall in the Center for the Arts; **12:30-3p, Cal State LA**, 5151 State University Dr, LA 90032, Los Angeles Room

in the University Student Union; and **5:30p-7, reception, meet and greet** and book sale and signing, followed by theater presentation of "Elliot", **Kirk Douglas Theater**, 9820 Washington Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232 (RSVP required, limited invitations. Contact: oscarlopezsocaltour@gmail.com; 310-460-8586)

The Animated Woman Presents Tropes, Teaching & Tests... Knowing The 3 T's For Gender Equity In Animation, 8p, Echo Park Film Center, 1200 N. Alvarado St, LA 90026, (213) 484-8846, www.echoparkfilmcenter.org. We kick off our 2018 lecture series with the amazing Erica Larsen and a journey of discovery into the subtle ways gender bias can be inserted into animated media and how to spot them! We will discuss how reoccurring narratives, character traits, designs and methods keep us stuck in the "wholesome" days of yore when female characters upheld gender norms. Next we will learn ways of spotting them, calling them out, and also striving to break the mold in our own world. The lecture will conclude with a group activity putting these methods into action. \$10 Admission for this event. Advance sign up encouraged.

Zocalo: Does Childhood Trauma Live in the Body Forever? With Nadine Burke Harris, 7:30p. Moderated by Carol S. Larson, President and CEO, David and Lucile Packard Foundation. National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, 111 N Central Ave, LA 90012. Where do we find answers to the world's growing plagues of chronic illnesses--from diabetes to depression? In childhood. Surveys and research show a connection between ill health in adults and adversity in childhood--divorce, substance abuse, neglect, and various other forms of emotional and physical abuse. What's the nature of connections between childhood stress and health? How can we better assist unhealthy adults whose problems are rooted in childhood trauma? Nadine Burke Harris, pediatrician, founder and CEO of the Center for Youth Wellness, and author

of *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood Adversity*, visits Zócalo to examine the newest thinking on how people can overcome childhood trauma--and avoid its long-term ill effects. A free, hosted reception with the evening's featured guests will follow the program. Paid parking is available at the Little Tokyo Mall Public Parking Lot (318 E. First St.) Enter

from San Pedro Street. Additional paid parking is available at the Japanese Village Plaza Parking Lot (356 E First St.) and the Office Depot Plaza Parking Lot (401 Alameda St).

Richard Falk Speaking on Israel-Palestine, 7p, Culver-Palms United Methodist Church, 4464 Sepulveda Bl, Culver City 90230, 5 Blocks South of Culver Blvd. Park in Large Lot Behind Church. Donation: \$10 - \$5 for Students. Richard Falk Discusses the Suppressed U.N. Report by Himself and Virginia Tilley Titled: "Israeli Practices Towards The Palestinian People and The Question of Apartheid".

Feb 8 - Thu

Decolonization, Hurricanes and Solidarity with Puerto Rico: Oscar Lopez Rivera Speaks @ Pomona College (Claremont) with Prof. Miguel Tinker Salas; and **6-9p, UCLA, Moore Hall**, Lecture Room 100. Contact: oscarlopezsocaltour@gmail.com; 310-460-8586

Rio Hondo Chapter of Sierra Club: The featured speaker Jerry Willenbring will address Environmental Justice. Dinner 7p, Program 7:30p. Coco's 1250 East Imperial Highway, Brea 92821

Health Care For All- LA will forgo usual meeting to attending **The Future Of Health Care Forum** hosted by Westchester-Playa Democratic Club with Sen. Ben Allen, Dr. Gerald Kominski (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research), Dr. Steve Tarzynski (Pres. of CA Physicians Alliance), Dr. Paul Song (Co-Chair of the Campaign for a Healthy California) 6-8:30p, Holy Nativity Episcopal Church 6700 W 83 St, LA 90045. pres@westchesterplayademclub.org www.westchesterplayademclub.org/future_of_health_care_forum Wear SB562 or Health Care for All T shirts. Qs for HCA-LA Maureen mrcruised@aol.com 310- 459-9763

Feb 9 - Fri

Decolonization, Hurricanes and Solidarity with Puerto Rico: Oscar Lopez Rivera Speaks @ 7-9a, ICUJP (Immanuel Presbyterian, Berendo at Wilshire), **1-4p at Chapman University** off-campus site in DT Santa Ana,

216 N. Broadway, Santa Ana 92701, and **8-10p at Centro Cultural de la Raza**, 2004 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101. Contact: oscarlopezsocaltour@gmail.com; 310-460-8586

Feb 10 - Sat

MESS- Modern Thinker KEN YAS interview, 2p at 212 Pier Ave, Santa Monica. FREE. <http://www.laughtears.com/mess.html>

Facilitation Training 3 | Entrenamiento de facilitación 3, L.A. Tenants Union, 11a-3p, KIWA 1053 S New Hampshire Ave, LA 90006.



Is Geoengineering Actually About Using Weather As A Weapon? 7p, Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City 90230, Donations Accepted. Free parking behind the building. Info: Marcia: 310-478-8828 or Joe: drschwa@gmail.com. Earth and her atmosphere have been weaponized before our very eyes. Elana Freeland, a brilliant investigative author, speaker and teacher, exhaustively documented these programs in her 2014 book: *Chemtrails, HAARP and the Full Spectrum Dominance of Planet Earth*. She will explain in detail how the chemical aerosols whiting out our skies and the ionospheric heaters work together to assure 24/7 military operations of global control, including but not limited to weather modification.



James Baldwin

Feb 11 - Sun

WORDS AND IDEAS: Celebrating James Baldwin, 2p. The Skirball and LA's oldest literary arts organization, Beyond Baroque—celebrating its fiftieth anniversary—present an afternoon of readings and discussion focused on the life, contributions, and legacy of writer-activist James Baldwin. Acclaimed actor, producer, and political activist Alfre Woodard hosts the program, which includes remarks by LA poet laureate Robin Coste Lewis and performances of Baldwin's work by actor Jussie Smollet (Empire). Books featuring Baldwin's work available for purchase. A reception follows the program. Admission: \$15 General, \$12

Members, \$8 Full-Time Students. Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90049, (310) 440-4500.

Committee for Racial Justice presents: Social Justice Action Plan for SMMUSD, 6-8:30p, (singing group meets at 5:30pm in Thelma Terry Bldg). Potluck supper at 6p & program at 6:30p. Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg., 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica 90404. Free Workshop. Dr. Jacqueline Mora, Asst. District Superintendent of Education Services for the Santa Monica/Malibu United School District will present the new Social Justice Action Plan that will be a part of the district's overall plan to move toward Equity and reduce the achievement gap for students of color in our school district. There will also be a panel discussion and Q & A. Co-sponsored by Virginia Ave. Park; the African American Parent, Staff, Student Support Group; and the Church in Ocean Park. For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431

Rod Webber: Art As Activism, 7p, Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd, Venice 90291. Free. http://www.laughtears.com/documental_subversive.html Interview & Political films www.rodwebber.com



Rod Webber

Feb 12 - Mon

FJJ Live Music 3p and Avant Garde Jazz Film 3:30p at Unurban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica. free. <http://www.laughtears.com/freeJazzJubilee.html>

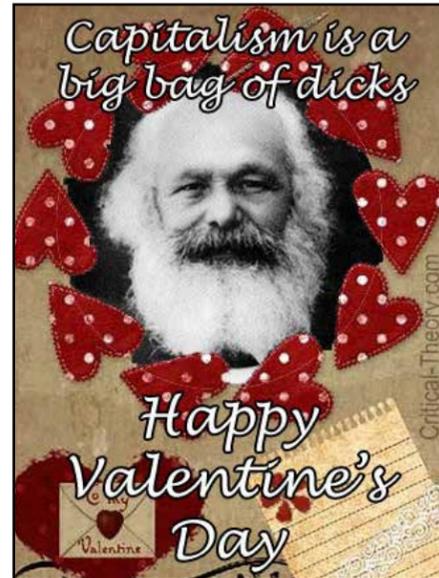
Feb 13 - Tue

Music & Performance - Comedy Sweeties: A Night With Sara Schaefer and Friends, 7:30p, Hammer Museum, free. Leave the flowers and chocolates at home and come toast love and celebrate what really makes the world go 'round—laughter. Sara Schaefer leads an all-female lineup of comedians with Janine Brito, Naomi Ekperigin, and Kyle Mizono.

Feb 14 - Wed

Art By People In Love - 8p, Echo Park Film Center, 1200 N. Alvarado St, LA 90026, (213) 484-8846, www.echoparkfilmcenter.org We're in love with love and what better way to celebrate (or commiserate) than a **Valentine's**

Day mash note mishmash of films, poems, performance songs and dances? The theme is simple: we ask that those in love—with someone, something or some place—present some work (10 minutes or less) dealing with this theme. Kinda like "an open mic night" for romantics...



Feb 15 - Thu

Screening: The Untelling Detail, 7:30p, Hammer Museum. This screening of short videos by artists included in *Stories of Almost Everyone* reflects and refers back to works and ideas that appear in the exhibition. Organized around the concept that inanimate objects and inert cultural artifacts are conduits for narrative histories, the program considers how artists use moving images to extend the life of things and materials that would otherwise appear to be stable and resolute. Contributors include Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc, Isabelle Cornaro, Mark Leckey, Klara Lidén, and Shahryar Nashat.

Feb 16 - Fri

Black Lives Matter Fundraiser at Pan African Film Festival, 6:30-10p. Cinemark Baldwin Hills and XD, 4020 Marilton Ave, LA 90008 (inside Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza Mall).

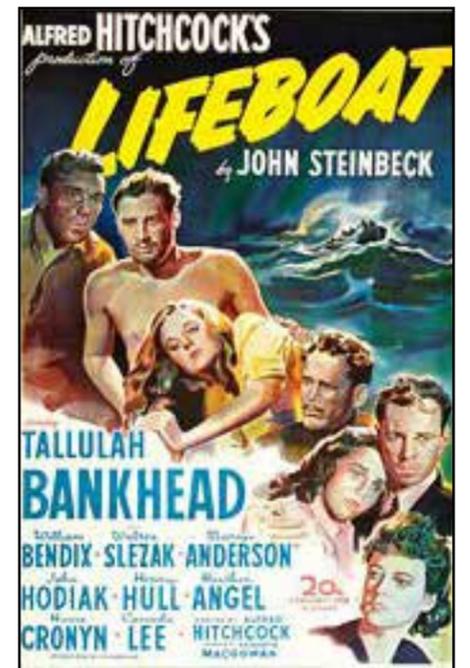
Feb 17 - Sat

Black History Month Film Showing and Discussion of / Am Not Your Negro, 6:30p. *I Am Not Your Negro* powerfully represents Black gay activist and writer James Baldwin's reflections on the boundaries of race and the necessity for multi-issue coalition-building. The film's historical footage connects the ongoing struggle for Black freedom and equality to today's movements. Special guest, Kristina Lee, queer Black and Chinese American feminist and anti-fascist activist, will introduce and comment on the film. Doors open for social hour and Gumbo dinner at 5pm. Door donation \$3.00, Dinner donation \$10. Solidarity Hall, 2122 W. Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90018. (wheelchair accessible) Hosted by Freedom Socialist Party, www.socialism.com. For information or work exchange, call 323-732-6416, email fspla@earthlink.net or visit facebook.com/fspla.

Feb 18 - Sun

KPFK Local Station Board meeting, 10:30a, Peace Center, 3916 S. Sepulveda Bl., Culver City 90230. Dial 22 for entry.

Art Imitates Nature Fundraiser: Classic Film Night, Alfred Hitchcock's "Lifeboat" 7-9p, We're going to relax with family and friends in the music room of the Valley Art Workshop. Plant-based hors d'oeuvres potluck encouraged. We'll have popcorn and tea at the ready! We're asking for donations of \$20 or more to bring back the kelp forests in the Santa Monica Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula. You can simply make these donations online at the event or show us the receipt when coming in for the event. Contact organizer Miles Lewis: 818-390-2215.



Feb 19 - Mon

Theoretical Legacies of the Russian Revolution, 6:30-8:30p, Peace Center, 3916 Sepulveda Blvd., near Venice Blvd. (free parking in rear) Suite 101-102, press #22 for entry. Speakers: Kevin B. Anderson, author of *Lenin, Hegel, and Western Marxism*; Edward Tapia, writer on imperialism for *New Politics* and other journals. Sponsored by the West Coast Chapter, International Marxist-Humanist Organization, <arise@internationalmarxisthumanist.org> www.internationalmarxisthumanist.org/

Feb 20 - Tue

"Black Panther" Movie Night Fundraiser, 6-10p, Southwestern Law Black Law Students Association, 3050 Wilshire Blvd, LA 90010. Come see *Black Panther* with us and support the Southwestern Law School Black Law Students Association while doing it. LA Live Regal



Cinema in downtown L.A. For tickets, email swlaw@nblsa.org. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1178939705574098/>

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition general meeting. See Feb. 6 for location, details.

Feb 21 - Wed

MOM - Media Discussion, 6-9p, Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd, Venice 90291. Free. <http://venicewake.org/Events/current.html>

Break the Chain Film Screening, 5:30-9p, film starts 6:30 p, Museum of Ventura County, 100 E Main St, Ventura 93001, free. With filmmaker, Laura Swanson. This award-winning feature length documentary film addresses the often "hidden-in-plain-sight" issue of Human Trafficking in the



US. Co-hosted by VCCAHT, The Acorn Project, Interface Family Services, The Polaris Project, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, The Coalition for Family Harmony, Museum of Ventura County, Youth With A Mission, and Soroptimist. To learn more, visit: <http://breakthechainfilm.com>.



Feb 22 - Thu

Passing the Torch—From Selma to Today, Lessons from Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, 7:30p, Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90049, (310) 440-4500, info@skirball.org. Join former UN Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr., and Dr. Clarence B. Jones—three pivotal figures of the 1960s civil rights movement—and moderator Stosh Cotler, executive director of Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice, as they reflect on how the Selma to Montgomery march and other key actions led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Then consider what strategies can transform racist and unjust public policy today. Presented in collaboration with The Gateway Educational Foundation. \$12 General, \$10 Members and Full-Time Students

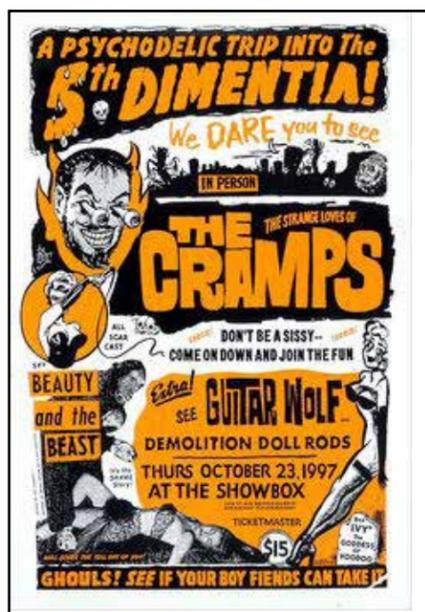
Feb 23 - Fri

Feel The Bern at the CA Democratic Party convention in San Diego, hosted by Bernie Sanders Brigade and Food & Water Watch - California; 10p Feb 23-1p Feb 25. Mark your calendar as we make our voices and presence felt at the 2018 California Democrats State Convention. During the convention Democrats will ratify candidate endorsements, endorse candidates for statewide office and map out their agenda. We will make sure that the leadership hears from the people what we believe to be the best agenda, not what the party establishment think we should focus on. We can no longer accept business as usual. From Healthcare for All to jobs, housing education immigration, the environment, money in politics, election reform, homelessness, jobs and much more needs to have real changes. Stay tuned for updates - convention information will be posted as it becomes available. <https://www.facebook.com/events/156082318479569/>

Feb 24 - Sat

Jazz Funk Fest, 7p, UnUrban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd Santa Monica 90401, 310-315-0056, FREE admission, <http://www.laughtears.com/jazzfunkfest.html>

Psycho-delic Cinema Vol. 1, 8p, Echo Park Film Center, 1200 N. Alvarado St, LA 90026 (213) 484-8846, www.echoparkfilmcenter.org. Submit your PUNK ROCK, PSYCHEDELIC, HORROR, ROUGH, RAW, GLORIOUSLY DISASTROUS FILMS. Then come down to the cinema and watch a bunch of PUNK ROCK, PSYCHEDELIC, HORROR, ROUGH, RAW, GLORIOUSLY DISASTROUS FILMS! Submit to psychodelic.cinema@gmail.com



Feb 25 - Sun

Seven Cinema Cinema, 7p, Beyond Baroque 681 Venice Blvd FREE http://www.laughtears.com/documental_subversive.html Political-Music films

Screening as part of the series The Black Book: Chocolate Babies, 7:30p, free, Hammer Museum. In this audacious political satire, a band of HIV-positive queer urban activists of color stage a series of surprise attacks to expose political corruption surrounding the AIDS epidemic. (1997, dir. Stephen Winter, 83 min.) Q&A with Tisa Bryant and Ernest Hardy follows the screening.



Queer activists of color fight back vs AIDS corruption in "Chocolate Babies"

Feb 26 - Mon

Laughtears Salon, 6-9p, 212 Pier, Santa Monica free - politics, art, culture discussion, free. <http://www.cafe212pier.com/>

Feb 27 - Tue

Screening: Faces Places, 7:30p, free, Hammer Museum. The 89-year-old director Agnès Varda, a leading figure of the French New Wave, travels the villages of France with 33-year-old JR, an acclaimed photographer and muralist, producing and installing epic portraits of locals they meet along the way. An exploration of artistic vision and Varda's enduring legacy, the "magnificently moving, funny, and altogether wonderful" (Indiewire) documentary received the Toronto Film Festival's Peoples Choice award and the Golden Eye Prize at Cannes. (2017, dir. Agnès Varda and JR, 89 min.)

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition community meeting on Predictive Policing. See Feb. 6 for location, details.

Feb 28 - Wed

Under One Sky 27th Interfaith Intercultural Breakfast: California Conference for Equality and Justice, 7:30-9:30a, Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center, 300 E



PFLAG activists Marsha and Aiden Aizumi, mother and trans-gender son, authors of *Two Spirits, One Heart*, speak at CCEJ program in Long Beach.

LAPC FAILS

...Continued from p. 1

Held on Tuesdays at LAPD headquarters at 9:30am, these meetings are often inaccessible to Los Angeles residents most affected by the very policies on which this civilian commission regularly vote. At this past Tuesday's Police Commission meeting, commission president Steve Soboroff led the unanimous vote to approve the donation of \$31,500 from the nonprofit Los Angeles Police Foundation to be used to purchase drones for the 1-year pilot program, despite the presence of community organizers and activists showing up again to express their concerns.

Commission President Soboroff sits on the board of the Weingart Foundation, which provides grants to a number of LA area nonprofits, including the Los Angeles Police Foundation. How can residents of Los Angeles take seriously a board tasked with civilian oversight when its president sits on the board of a foundation that gives money to a group that exists solely to provide funds and equipment unencumbered by city budget oversight to the Los Angeles Police Department? I think it's high time for Mayor Garcetti to appoint police commissioners who truly represent the communities the LAPD is tasked with serving, otherwise we need to stop pretending that this board is one of "civilian" oversight.

Letters to Change Links

Dear Editor:

I've been tempted to write more than once before, but your "Editorial Commentary" graphic in the January issue moves me finally to say Enough! with what I would call ultra-leftism in the current epoch.

If at this late date, a year into President Trump, the editors of *Change-Links* do not see that there is indeed some "difference between Democrats and Republicans," then you and I are truly inhabiting different planets.

The Democrats are not perfect. They are collectively far from perfect. But we would be fighting very different kinds of fights right now if President Hillary Clinton were sitting in the White House.

There were many factors that contributed to her defeat, almost any one of which could be considered determinative. But certainly the lowered voter turnout for her (as compared to for Barack Obama) was one. A part of that discomfort about voting for her came from the "either vote for Satan or vote for Lucifer" crowd represented in this quarter-page cartoon. One cannot even argue that in certain states, like California, it was "OK" to vote third party or to stay home, because that attitude—those words, those views, those memes—also got picked up in places like Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and discouraged voters there.

There's a reason Bernie Sanders ran as a Democrat. There's a reason Doug Jones ran as a Democrat, and all those women and trans candidates who won in Virginia last November and in other places ran as Democrats. Ever hear of the United Front? That's the broadest possible unity against the main enemy of the moment, and that is fascism, the far-right corporatist administrative committee in government for the One Percent. Right now, despite its many internal disagreements, the Democratic Party forms a part of that Resistance. And I use that word advisedly: Not a single Democratic vote supported the recent tax bill the GOP rammed down the country's throat, nor supported repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

A time may come when the working class and the movements of oppressed people are so strong that they can mount credible challenges to the Democratic Party, which will either force it into the electoral arena with opponents from its left, or force it to take more consistently advanced positions. In the meantime, even in 2016, left forces—progressives, radicals, Bernie-ites, etc.—were able to cajole the DP into passing the most progressive major party platform ever launched. This momentum is ongoing: Recently the DP substantially reduced the number of superdelegates to its convention, which opens wider the door to left-of-center activists. I know we want more, and sooner, but an engaged sense of patience and perseverance is a necessity for the long haul of an activist movement.

If we continue to identify people such as Karen Bass, Kamala Harris, Sheila Kuehl, Ted Lieu, Barbara Lee, Maxine Waters, and I could name many more from other parts of the country, as "the Devil"—as in your slogan "No More Deals with the Devil!"—then

MISSING MESSAGE OF THE WOMEN'S MARCH

...Continued from p. 1

We're sure most of the women and allies attending the Women's March agree with us on the need for action and protest against our ongoing wars. The escalating military budget is driving our country further into debt. Meanwhile, infrastructure is decaying, health care and housing is diminishing and education is underfunded. College students graduate with astronomical debt. Meanwhile, there is growing police oppression.

We must include PEACE in our march because unless we can stop the trend, a nuclear war is going to destroy civilization. There's no such thing as a winnable nuclear war and dismantling ALL nukes should be at the forefront of any of our activism. The continuity of human life on our planet is at stake. These are Womens' issues.

The demand for peace not war should be integral to the Women's March. <https://www.mintpressnews.com/the-missing-message-of-the-upcoming-womens-march/236455/>

Ed Note: The Palestinian American Women's Association (PAWA) pulled out of the LA march over a speaking slot for Scarlett Johansen, who was a spokesperson for Sodastream, a product that was manufactured by an Israeli company operating in the illegally-occupied Palestinian territories. Dr. Abdullah of #BLMLA, who did speak, raised the issues of Palestine, police terror and white women's majority support for Trump.

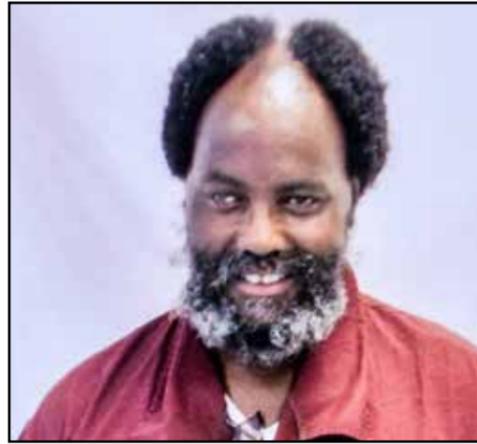
Power Of Law & Sex

[col. writ. 12/10/17] © 2017 Mumia Abu-Jamal

A powerful political figure asks several of his female staffers a favor: "Can either of you gals have my baby? Don't worry -- I'm willing to pay y'all..."

In an era in which sexual harassment, assaults and attacks on women seem commonplace, this case seems like something out of a bad sci-fi [science fiction] movie.

Is this real life? One wonders.



It reminded me of the feminist futuristic classic, *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood, where men of wealth and status create a conservative theocracy where women of lower social standing are ordered and taught to serve the wealthy classes, even to the point of bearing them children, to whom they have no claim over.

That, in fact, was the true and hidden condition of America at its founding, where African women were raped at will, only to give birth to children, who could be sold for profit - at a whim!

The politician who propositioned his staff members (Rep. Trent Franks, R-8th, Arizona), was a prominent conservative known for his adherence to 'family values'. Well, for the chance of selling their wombs, the congressman offered them \$5million dollars - some value, huh?

Oh--he didn't want a baby through in vitro fertilization. He wanted to --uhh--'do it,' the old-fashioned way, y'know, sex.

Even though he's since retired, doesn't it give you some insight into how lawmakers think of regular people? I think so.

The bodies of women are, under the logic of capitalism, just another commodity, a thing, to be bought and sold. Doesn't that explain the fantastic profits to be made in the porn industry?

That logic brought us the horrors and carnage of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, where Black women were bred and sold like cattle.

Over a century later, and the price has risen.

I guess that's progress.

VISITING MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

By Carole Seligman

I had the tremendous honor of meeting for the first time and having a visit with Mumia this morning after attending the court proceeding Jan. 17th.

Mumia is a warm, welcoming man. Despite a terribly uncomfortable skin outbreak that keeps him from sleeping, and itching that is constant and unrelenting, Mumia has kept on writing trenchant commentaries on all current pressing issues and recording them in his beautiful voice on Prison Radio. We know this about him, but I wanted to meet him in person after writing to him and working for his freedom for many years. I was introduced by attorney Rachel Wolkenstein who was visiting MOVE prisoner, Eddie Africa, as well as Mumia. Basym Hasan (from

...See: "Visiting Mumia," p. 8

-Classified Ad-

Accommodations needed: Driving assistants/cleaners for Santa Monica clergyman. Office/interview hours: 3p-dusk weekdays; weekend hours vary. EOE. Apply: chippercubby@gmail.com

-Classified Ad-

For Sale: New/pre-viewed collector DVDs Richard Gere, Marky Mark, Pee-wee, Evita, Swingers, Fargo, Glengarry, Cocoon, Love Story, orig TV Batman, Cinema Paradiso. Make offer: chippercubby@gmail.com

I am afraid you and the people who think like you will be forever condemned to jerking off on the sidelines, while the majority mass movement of Latinx, African Americans, women, LGBTQ folk, students, urban residents and more march on to take back the House in 2018 and possibly even the Senate. They will have nothing but contempt for the "principled" "pure" left of the left (virtually all white and most of them male, by the way) who shat on their aspirations.

Like it or not, these are the institutions of government here in these United States until such time as The Revolution creates other forms. Grow up and join the struggle where it's at, not on the romantic barricades where you fantasize it.

Do you remember how the United Front concept got started? In the mid-1930s, with Central Europe in the grip of fascism, the Communist International came to its senses, realizing the terrible, fatal mistake it had made just a few years earlier by pitting its super-revolutionary politics against the Social Democrats (who were bastards too, I know, but they were anti-fascist). That failure to think and act strategically, rather than emotionally over past hurts and deeds, got us Hitler.

And in 2016 that same failure got us Donald Trump. Thanks a lot.

Eric A. Gordon

Reply: The cartoon as noted was an individual editorial commentary by Michael Novick. As we note, articles in C-L are the views of the authors, not necessarily of other people on the all-volunteer staff or the publication in general. We are happy to print your opposing viewpoint, and are glad to see the paper beginning to generate some letters of comment. We encourage more readers to do the same.

LATE-BREAKING LABOR NEWS: *LA Times* newsroom voted in a union!

LA City Council and Mayor Garcetti: We Oppose CVE

by Kathleen Hernandez

If you haven't already done so, please sign and send out this petition: <http://act.mpowerchange.org/sign/no-cve-in-la-sign/> to your networks, to urge the City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to reject CVE funds. "CVE" stands for Countering Violent Extremism, but is designed to stigmatize Muslims. There will also be a organizational sign on letter available for circulation shortly. Please keep a lookout for this and begin to talk to your organizations about signing on.

The petition states:

The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) initiative unfairly singles out Muslim communities for surveillance and criminalization. LA's CVE programs have been developed and launched in an opaque process without broad community consultation. The Trump administration has made it clear that they plan to use the program to target Muslims.

I urge you to reject CVE funding from Trump's Department of Homeland Security.

Kathleen Hernandez, Veterans For Peace, Los Angeles,
Associate Member
MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Co-Founder

VISITING MUMIA

...Continued from p. 7

the PA Prison Society) and Mumia's brother, Keith Cook, were also visiting and we had a round table wide-ranging discussion on many topics including the court proceedings of the previous day, genetic testing, the death penalty in PA, the water quality in the prison (the guards don't drink from the water fountains) and the itchy skin conditions that many prisoners are suffering; prison food, the upcoming Women's March and the significance of last year's Women's March on the day after the Trump inauguratin; the case of a juvenile lifer, who, after 64 years in prison had his sentence converted to 35 to life, but wasn't allowed to leave the state to go to family members in the South! Much of the discussion cycled around to the combined conditions of extreme cruelty with irrational idiocy in the prisons.

Mumia, while he was on death row in SCI Greene was in the wing of the prison where they could watch the food preparation. The food was put on carts and delivered to all the different cell blocks, ending with the death row blocks, where it was always cold. When he was transferred to SCI Mahanoy, he burned his mouth because he had grown used to never tasting hot food. Simple cruelty, carried out for years on end.

Mumia told us about new, colorful, cheerfully painted signs on the Mahanoy prison walls saying: "Help is near," and "If you feel suicidal, contact staff." Such irony. In the discussion on genetic testing, in which Basym was telling us about how he is learning about his multi-racial relatives, we discussed race and the fact that it is a erroneous concept. Mumia told about how the white relatives of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings didn't care much about being descended from a Founding Father and early president of the U.S., only that there was a Black ancestor, and that soon, in the wealthy all-white enclave in which they lived, they started being excluded from some private clubs. Mumia pointed out that all our ancestors were in Africa, where our species evolved; that an African mother is the ancestral mother of every human being.

I feel privileged to have listened and participated in these kinds of conversations with such a big-hearted person.

Mumia's skin condition seemed to worsen over the time of the visit, with open red areas on his inner arms. His brother Keith gave some sessions of kind relief by scratching Mumia's back. Lots of brotherly gratitude for that! As our visit was ending, Mumia gave a message of love for Kevin Cooper, on death row at San Quentin and compliments on Kevin's beautiful art.

Yesterday, a short hearing in Judge Tucker's courtroom in Philadelphia ended with a 60-day postponement of the orders for the District Attorney's office to provide the documents that show Ronald Castille's active involvement in the prosecutorial frame-up of Mumia. Castille went on to rule against all of Mumia's appeals as a justice on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. This failure to recuse himself as judge from cases he prosecuted as DA was ruled unconstitutional [the Williams decision], opening the door for Mumia, and several other convicted Philadelphians to seek redress. Supporters of Mumia, who filled the courtroom and demonstrated outside the courthouse in the snow, were encouraged by Judge Tucker's expressing to the DA representatives in the courtroom that he didn't want the issue "kicked down the road" and ordered a status meeting of the DA and defense counsel in 30 days. A note of caution is in order. This judge has thrown out several worthy cases, including the PCRA petition challenging his conviction brought by Major Tillery, a framed PA prisoner who was punitively transferred from Mahanoy after he saved Mumia's life when Mumia fell into a diabetic coma caused by untreated Hepatitis C 2 years ago.

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