

MARCH 2021 Community Calendar

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

Mar 2 - Special CA Senate District 20 Primary Election

Mar 8 - International Women's Day
"Can Women's Movements Save the World?"

Mar 11 - Virtual Walkathon for Alexandria House

Mar 13 - Nonviolent Direct Action

Mar 14, 21 - KPFK Local Board

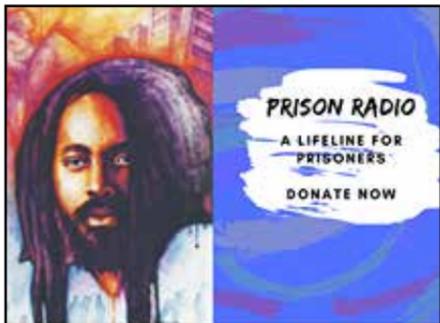
Mar 27 - Live Virtual Tour of LA Murals & Graffiti Art

THE AMERICAN WAY OF FASCISM

[1/30/21 (c) 2021 by Mumia Abu-Jamal]

Look at the crowds savaging the walls and halls of the U.S. Capitol. Who are they? Where did this mob come from?

Well over a decade ago, an American journalist saw them and wrote about them.



Chris Hedges, who once wrote for the *New York Times* as a foreign correspondent covering wars, famine and fallen states, published a rather remarkable book in 2006 entitled *American Fascists*. Its subtitle? : *The Christian Right and the War on America*.

Tracing this American religious strain from 16th century Calvinism in Europe, Hedges goes deeper, and examines this movement's inner motivations.

Hedges explains:

The movement is fueled by the fear of powerful external and internal enemies whose duplicity and cunning is currently at work. These phantom enemies serve to keep believers afraid and it is a heightened state of alert, ready to support repressive measures against all who do not embrace the movement. (Hedges 29)

When neoliberalism rose to power in the 80's and 90's, it did so on the backs of the black poor, whom it consigned to the prisons; and to many white workers, who lost their manufacturing jobs and their worlds of rising wages, and were shuttled off into the struggles of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement).

They were swept into worlds of wonder, of high volume Faith, and to war against the wealthy.

It's American Christian fascism, y'all (in Hedges's words) — and it can only get worse.

Half a Million Dead of COVID-19

Just for comparison, here's the population of some cities you may know, or live in.

Fresno California	531,576
Mesa Arizona	518,012
Sacramento CA	513,624
Atlanta Georgia	506,811
Kansas City MO	495,327
Colorado Springs CO	478,221
Omaha Nebraska	478,192
Raleigh N. Carolina	474,069
Miami Florida	467,963
Long Beach CA	462,628
Virginia Beach VA	449,974
Oakland California	433,031
Minneapolis MN	429,606

The Envoy on Antisemitism, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, the ADL and Me

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action-LA

Rumor has it that Joe Biden is considering naming Abe Foxman, former head of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), as his new Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, a position within the State Department that falls under the Under-Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights.

This focused my attention on both the purpose of the office, which is related to US foreign policy, explaining why it's an "envoy" (someone being sent elsewhere) and on the ongoing controversy over the IHRA "working definition" of antisemitism, which improperly conflates antisemitism with anti-Zionism and with criticism of the Israeli government and its occupation, policies and treatment of Palestinians.



I am speaking as someone who has been called a self-hating Jew, or in these terms, an antisemitic Semite, for my support of Palestine's liberation and sovereignty. I have been physically attacked by members of the Jewish Defense League at a protest of racism in college admissions in Brooklyn, and at an anti-Klan protest in Los Angeles, and threatened at rallies outside the Israeli consulate. Some years ago, when I informed my old neighbors that the Burbank apartment where I had lived had been named as my home by Tom Metzger of White Aryan Resistance

(WAR), who invited his followers to pay me a visit, Foxman's ADL dispatched a lieutenant they were working with in LAPD's so-called Anti-Terrorism Division to inquire of me why I was on Metzger's radar. I said, "None of your business."

It later came out that the ADL had cut deals with the police departments of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and other cities, all of whom were under court orders to prevent spying on political groups and figures, to evade the injunctions. My group was one the ADL spied on.

See: "The Envoy, the ADL & Me," p.7

GET CONNECTED – CHANGE THE WORLD!

changeLinks

STOP THE WARS - PEACE, EQUALITY & JUSTICE FOR ALL!

The Climate Crisis: Worse than We Can Fathom

<https://peterkalmus.net/about/>

My awareness of climate breakdown reached the point where I had no choice but to respond in some meaningful way...

But, a meaningful response was a tall order: global warming is intertwined deeply with our lives, physically, socially, and spiritually. I asked myself, how can we respond, as individuals? What can we do right here, right now, with what we have? How can we live happy and fulfilling lives even in the shadow of global warming?

I am a climate scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. I use satellite data and models to study the rapidly changing Earth, focusing on boundary layer clouds and ecological forecasting. I have a PhD in physics from Columbia University and a BA in physics from Harvard.

Because burning fossil fuel is what's [mainly] causing global warming, the central focus of my response is to avoid burning it! Today I emit under 2 tonnes of CO2 per year, one tenth of the U.S. average. In reducing my footprint, I have discovered this to be surprisingly satisfying and empowering. I also work within my community to help neighbors, cities, schools, and churches use less fossil fuel. Meditating and growing food helps me stay centered and



Three leading women environmentalists: Vandana Shiva, Sunita Narain, and Miranda Wang.
<https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/environment/women-environmental-activists-377191.html>

happy even in the face of dire climate projections. My award-winning book, *Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution* gives real life solutions to move away from a consumerist lifestyle that isn't even making us happy.

Changing our lives shifts the culture and creates space for collective action. Together, let's explore a more meaningful life – without all the fossil fuel!

TAKE ACTION

<https://climateadproject.com/takeaction/>

No one can tell you how to be a climate activist. That's up to you to figure out. But here are a few guidelines to help you:

Find a local group of activists to join

Better yet, join two or three. You need to find your people, your friends and co-conspirators. You need their support. They need yours. Voices are empowered when joined together. Hone your organization and communication skills. Find your niche.

Be courageous & creative

The movement needs motion: fresh ideas, perspectives, tactics. Don't wait for others. Get political.

Bring in others

Talk to others. Recruit others. Inspire others.

Prioritize your physical, mental, & spiritual health

If you are burnt out you can't help. Be kind to yourself.

See how far you can go

How revolutionary can you get? We are losing Earth. Now is the time.

Dissolve your ego

This will help you, the climate movement, & the Earth. There are many practices, find one that works.

That's it, have fun! And thank you. We love you, and so do all the other beings on this Earth that are suffering from climate and ecological breakdown.

Here are some popular climate groups to get you started:

<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>

<https://rebellion.global/>

<https://globalclimatestrike.net/action/>

<https://fridaysforfuture.org/take-action/>

<https://350.org/>

Change Links recommendation: Here's a link to powerful story about Peter Kalmus and his family: <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-climate-crisis-is-worse-than-you-can-imagine-heres-what-happens-if-you-try>

The Decline of Patriarchy and the Rise of Feminine Energy

by Jackie Lopez

The rose above my head has blossomed and says, "Speak your soul to me."

The patriarchal aliens have left the planet.

The oceans are emerging out of the sea.

The cosmos is all aglow.

And, many a theatre buff is touching the hem of my garment.

Cinderella found her shoe and decided to swim with the Mermaids.

Snow White became immersed in literature and reads to the 7 Dwarves.

Beauty made her way to the Congo.

Jasmine left Bagdad and made her new address The Magic Carpet.

And, my soul says, "Sing it softly."

Mother Earth says, "Dance loudly."

I've got a pocket full of envelopes to send letters across the world.

I've got a computer and a surprise email account.

I've got misbehavior and a lot of gumption.

The angels are playing our song.

And, I hear it.

The men have started wearing mini-skirts.

The women have started to paint.

The arrow shot by the Goddess is resounding all over the world.

Robin Hood's wet dream has come alive.

A lover speaks through the drum.

And, social change is whispering in the winds.

Pyramids have been found underwater.

Feminine energy is climbing the kundalini of humanity.

We feel love, compassion, and intuitive wisdom.

Many of us are finding each other.

Many of us are afraid.

Many of us long for your embrace.

Christ consciousness has become an adulteress, and Mary

Magdalene has returned.

"Kiss me on the lips," she says, "For you never know when your

Bio for Jackie Lopez

Jackie Lopez is a poet and writer from San Diego, California. She began writing poetry in high school outside of her class curriculum. She also passed many notes between her best friend and herself. She won her first poetry award from UCSD which she was attending. She continued with her classes in history of Latin America and the world but, again, she kept a journal and wrote poetry outside of her curriculum. For Jackie, poetry was an escape and a way to deal with the pain of knowing history, in particular, the history of people of color and world hegemony. The study of history has greatly empowered her to write about a great number of things. She writes like an activist and was founding member of The Taco Shop Poets. She has been published in a Chicano Literary journal, "La Bloga," nine times, The Hummingbird Review two times, a Latina feminist magazine, UCSD Warren Literary Journal, and she published two poems in "The Border Crossed Us: An Anthology to End Apartheid." She created a poem/mural with a number of people in Chicano Park, San Diego about hope. She has been a regular for 22 years in the poetry scene of San Diego and has read in several venues. She also has a two radio interviews and a poetry reading video on youtube. She has been a feminist since the day she was born. You can catch her work and message her on facebook: Jackie Lopez Lopez in San Diego. You can also reach her at email: peacemarisolbeautiful@yahoo.com



story will be read." Patriarchy is eroding at the seams and love is exploding into streams.

Press Conference & Protest: Gentrification Strikes Again A Historical Community Center in the Black Community

- The SECRET closing of a well-known center in the black community located in the Crenshaw District has been targeted for a project that's called "Destination Crenshaw", that feeds no one, houses no one, and assists no one.
- They wait until Black History Month, in order to slap the community in the face yet again, by the taking of more services.
- In 2018, AFIBA Center members joined with others in the community and individuals in a town hall and other meetings questioning the underlying tensions and consequences of councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson and his "Destination Crenshaw" project that is leaving long-standing community members with nothing.
- The AFIBA center is an African American centered Community institution in South Los Angeles located on Crenshaw Boulevard which for the past 20 years has hosted comprehensive programs aimed at expanding the cultural community consciousness and addressing residents' concerns whenever they arise, and whatever they might be.

To discuss the critical need for Community Services and Community Organizations that provide those services now more than ever due to COVID-19 and exacerbated by the corporate takeovers and gentrification projects that have targeted this community with the eradication of black businesses, homes, and governmental services like the EDD Office that has been removed, and created more devastating effects on a community that has shown the marks of disinvestment for decades.

Join Us:

@ AFIBA

To Discuss:

5730 Crenshaw Blvd.

Topic: The Purpose of the Youth

PARTICIPANTS: Jabari Jumaane, Executive Director, AFIBA Center; Lynn Moses, Co-Chair, CEMOTAP West; Damien Goodman, Director, Crenshaw Subway Coalition; Assata Umoja, President of H.O.P.E- Hyde Park Organizational Partnership for Empowerment. **MODERATOR:** Zerita Jones, Vice-Chair, Liberty Community Land Trust, Member ACCE Action LA, Co-Founder Baldwin/Leimert/Crenshaw Local LA Tenants Union, member of Right to Counsel Coalition and others. The purpose is to alert the press to the Secret lock out of the Center in the heart of Black Los Angeles, and all its community members during a time when lockouts are illegal. The press conference will include the information from the executive director, legacy community members, community organizers, residents, and stakeholders of the community. We demand the Center be left OPEN to the community and demand City Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson not remove another service to the community. Call His Office (213)473-7008 or email Marqueece.Harris-Dawson@lacity.org

Contributor: Zerita Jones. AFIBA Center, 5730 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles California 90043

(323) 292- 5550. For further information contact: Jabari Jumaane, Executive Director,

afiba_center@hotmail.com; Zerita Jones, Community Organizer, (323)425-5100 p. 2

IN MEMORY OF



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

Editorial Staff: Terrie Brady, Donna Buell, Bella De Soto, Uncle Don B. Fanning, Greg Foisie, Derrick Hall, Jeff Hirsch, Ray Jones, Michael Novick, Dean Ruby, 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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Change-Links is a non-profit under the fiscal sponsorship of the Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ). Donations of \$250 and above are tax deductible. **Just send a check to our P.O. Box made out to: AFGJ/Change-Links.**

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 sell ads, collect items for the monthly calendar, do print layout, 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!

On the 2nd or 3rd Wed. or Thurs. each month, we have a teleconference call to plan the next issue. Email us at changelinks2@gmail.com for details. To get involved, call or email as below to make sure of the date & time.

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 listings is appreciated.

Payable to AFGJ/Change Links
at the address below:

Change Links
P. O. Box 34236
Los Angeles, CA 90034-0236
Phone: (951) 638-9259
E-mail: changelinks2@gmail.com
Web Site: <http://www.change-links.org>

Southern California Community Calendar

March 2021 Women's History Month

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

Change Links cannot publish without your support. Send events, articles or poetry to changelinks2@gmail.com or via <http://change-links.org/submit/>. Please subscribe as well. Subscriptions to the print edition are \$12/25/50 a year, low income, regular or sustainer (sliding scale), **Payable to "AFGJ," our fiscal sponsor, with "Change Links" in the memo.** All events announced are encouraged to donate \$5 (per event), payable to AFGJ, mail to Change Links, PO Box 34236, LA 90034. It helps keep this publication solvent. Thanks in advance.

In light of the current COVID-19 global pandemic, and quarantines in California, the **Change Links** calendar has also been affected by cancellation of events and closure of venues. Consequently, we will print fewer copies, and mail out more, until further notice. You'll notice there are empty dates on this calendar. Most have turned to virtual meetings via teleconferencing, etc. Therefore, we strongly suggest that you contact any event listing of interest in this Calendar before you attend, as the ones listed herein were posted prior to actual circumstances reaching a heightened level of awareness.

Please contact the event by phone, email or website for updates.

COVID-19 Safety Precautions

Change Links urges all our subscribers and readers to administer all necessary precautions, to insure their safety. You will find a number of related articles to COVID-19 in our print and electronic issue. We will continue to update you going forward. We advise you as well to do your personal research for updates from all available sources to you. We face a difficult time, and wish you and yours good health and tranquility as we weather this together.

Peace vigils: <http://change-links.org/ongoing-peace-vigils-and-community-programs/>

Other Calendars: <http://ocprogressiveevents.info/>,
<http://la.indymedia.org/calendar/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ieprogressivealliance/events/>,
<http://www.activistsandiego.org/event>,
<https://vcpjn.org/calendar/>, <https://indivisibleventura.org/events/>,
<https://echoparkfilmcenter.org>
<https://www.timeout.com/los-angeles/movies/all-of-las-outdoor-movies-in-one-calendar>

On-Going & Continuing Events

1st of each month, PeoplesStrike actions called by a national united front coalition initiated by Cooperation Jackson in Mississippi (see Mondays for more into). www.cooperationjackson.org

3rd Sunday, KPFFK Local Station Board meeting, 10:30a-2:30p. Open to the public with 3 opportunities for short public comments. Check www.kpffk.org for other meetings, including LSB committees. The meetings will be conducted via Zoom or a Maestro conference audio conference call. Further info announced over KPFFK 90.7 FM air waves and kpffk.org or kpffk.org

Sundays, RAC-LA Food Program (El Programa Comida) Revolutionary Autonomous Communities, 1-5p, SE corner of Wilshire Bl & Parkview St, LA 90057, free produce distribution. <https://www.facebook.com/raclosangeles/>

Sundays, Serve the People LA, 4-6p, Mariachi Plaza, 1817 E 1st St, LA 90033.



STPLA free food & clothing distributions (along with books, shoes, etc). We also engage the community on happenings around the neighborhood and city, learn about grievances and provide legal services with help from the LA Ctr for Community Law & Action. <https://servethepeoplela.wordpress.com/>

3rd Sunday, SoCal350 monthly meeting, 3-5 p, Physical meeting cancelled, virtual "meeting" scheduled. <http://bit.ly/SoCal350Updates>; [facebook.com/SoCal350ClimateAction](https://www.facebook.com/SoCal350ClimateAction).

Mondays, PeoplesStrike organizing calls, 9a PDT, zoom call <https://peoplesstrike.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/PeoplesStrike> mayday2020generalstrike@gmail.com for details

Mondays, Support Honduran Refugees, 6-8p, Central American Resource Center (CARECEN-LA), 2845 W 7th St, LA. Offices are closed, call for details: (213)-385-7800. In the San Fernando Valley: 213-385-7800 ext. 122

Tuesdays, Join Black Lives Matter, Stop LAPD Spying and allies at LA Police Commission meeting via zoom to speak out against racist police murders with impunity. Police Commission meetings are being held via Zoom call, with the option to call in by phone to observe and (occasionally and arbitrarily) to comment. In response to increased public scrutiny, they changed their rules and only allow public comments of 1 minute each on two specific items and general public comment as the first agenda item, so call in promptly to get on the stack.

Tuesday eves, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition meetings have been changed to teleconference. LA CAN, 838 E. 6th St. LA, CA 90021, is closed to the public. <http://stoplapdspying.org> - see website for meeting topics. <https://www.facebook.com/stoplapdspying>

Tuesdays, 8:30-10p, Second Draft LA, open mic cold read of writing and acting (virtual, not at Art Share-LA, 801 E 4th Pl, LA 90013). <https://artsharela.org> (213) 687-4278. <https://zoom.us/j/9103444651> Pwd: artshare

Wednesdays, 6-7:30p, LA CAN Legal Clinic, LA CAN, 838 E. 6th St. LA, CA 90021. Suspended until further notice. Call 213.228.0024 for information about how to address needs of unhoused people during the COVID-19 outbreak and beyond.

3rd Wed, 7p, Community Alternatives to 9-1-1 training, Chuco's Justice Center

of Youth Justice Coalition. 7625 S. Central Ave, LA 90001. Check for status: 323-235-4243, action@youth4justice.org/

Last Wed, 7p "Socialism Now!" Peace & Freedom Party monthly meeting, 2617 S. Hauser Bl., LA, 90016 (Steps South from Adams Blvd. just east of Fairfax Ave.) www.Peace&FreedomParty.org-LA Chapter. Presumably not happening in-person until physical distancing demands can be lifted.

1st Thursday, 6-8p, Justice Not Jails, has switched to a virtual meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/529548178> You can also call in by dialing: 301 715 8592 US Meeting ID: 529 548 17. RSVP to Larry Foy at: lfoy@im4humanintegrity.org.

Thursdays, 5:30-7p, Operation Ally Weekly Social Justice Conference Call, fb.com/justadvocacy <http://advocacyproject.org/> (888) 407-4101 Join the Operation Ally weekly zoom conference call to gain insight into the issues of systemic oppression, organize into collaborative efforts and strategize the dismantling of these systems. Be a part of a community that supports you as we mobilize for change. <https://www.facebook.com/events/200763851083819/>

Fridays, Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace forum, 7-9a, has switched to a virtual meeting on zoom or dial in by phone: 669-900-6833 For details and to prevent zoom-bombing, contact communications@icujp.org for an invitation and instructions.

Fridays, Vigil for Peace & Justice, 5-6p, sponsored by KPFFK LSB Outreach Committee & friends has been suspended until further notice.

Fridays, Pico/LaCienega Peace Vigil, 5-6p since 2003 for peace and social justice. SW corner Pico and LaCienega, purplecir@aol.com

Fridays, Montrose Peace Vigil, 5:30-7p, since 2006! NW corner of Ocean View Bl and Honolulu Av, Montrose, CA 91020. <http://montrosepeacevigil.proboards.com/>

Fridays, Music Center Dance series, free, 7p, YouTube. (K-pop, line dancing, cumbia, etc.) and free dance lessons. <https://www.youtube.com/c/musiccenterlosangeles>

1st & 3rd Fri, MAR VISTA PEACE VIGIL, 5-6p, 11666 National Blvd., L.A. 90064 corner of National Blvd. and McLaughlin in front of Whole Foods For information: rdoynophoto@ca.rr.com

Saturdays, Crenshaw Farmers Market, 10a-3p, 3650 Martin Luther King Blvd. offers fresh produce and artisan goods. Ties into the mall's health initiative promoting wellness in the Crenshaw community. This farmers' market has re-opened! Contact Sustainable Economic Enterprises: www.seela.org for other farmer's markets that are also continuing with physical distancing (in Echo Park, Hollywood, Atwater Village and on Central Avenue in South LA).

Every 1st and 3rd Sat: End Homelessness Now-LA, 2-4pm, a grassroots campaign to pressure LA city and county officials to use vacant public properties for large, permanent, supportive public housing to end the homelessness catastrophe. Call or email for information on how or whether meetings will continue.. 323-723-6416 endhomelessnessnowla@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/endhomelessnessnowla/>

Every 2nd & 4th Sat, SOLA Food Co-Op www.solafoodcoop.com/ Baldwin Hills Farmers Market has re-opened.. SOLA Co-Op has been taking orders for pick-up of various CSA boxes.

2nd and 4th Sat, Chuco's Justice Center legal clinic: 10a-12n, 7625 S Central Ave LA 90001, 323-235-4243. Prepare for Court - Build a Participatory Defense Strategy, Petition to Have Your Name Removed from a Gang Database or Gang Injunction, Expunge Your Criminal or Juvenile Record Prepare for the Parole Board / Commutations and Pardons / Get Prop 47 Relief Immigration Law / Deportation Defense. Contact to find out how information is being made available: info@youth4justice.org 323-235-4243 <http://www.youth4justice.org/>

Every Sat, JVP - CodePINK Vigil for Palestine & Migrant Rights, 2-4p, 3rd St. Promenade at Arizona Ave., Santa Monica suspended until further notice.

Last Saturday, Move to Amend Local Meeting, 1-3p, Holy Grounds Coffee & Tea, 5371 Alhambra Ave, LA 90032, 323-255-1279. Call to check, venue probably closed.

AWARE-LA White anti-racist Saturday dialogues, <https://www.awarela.org/saturday-dialogue> Saturday Dialogue is a gathering for white anti-racists who want to discuss issues of identity, community, privilege and racism in our lives with the intention to strengthen our practice as anti-racists in alliances, relationships, and interactions with people of color.

Regular, recurring dialogues throughout the year focus on the intersections of multiple identities, including Race and Class, Sexuality and Race, and Gender and Race. Other workshops focus on relationships, Radical White Identity and Community, and issues such as police and the prison industrial complex, immigration, and gentrification.

We currently have four monthly Saturday Dialogues, which used to meet in various places throughout LA County, and are temporarily meeting online through Zoom. We also have one monthly "Online Sunday Dialogue" which was originally made available for folks who cannot make it to meetings in LA, or on Saturdays. Sign up here <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/aware-la-email-list/> to receive reminder emails about Saturday Dialogues. We strongly encourage you to attend a Saturday Dialogue Orientation before attending a Saturday Dialogue. See below for more info.

You must register for each space each time you want to attend, as all of the zoom links are personalized and different for each person/gathering.

THU - MAR 25

FRI - MAR 26

Images of César E. Chávez, with Oscar Castillo, Photographer
 Free · Online Event by LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Online: zoom.us 7p. Join us on Zoom and Facebook live as photographer Oscar Castillo, who since the late 1960s has documented the Chicano community in Los Angeles and Texas, presents a selection of images of labor leader, community organizer, and civil rights activist César E. Chávez, and tells the stories behind them. Since the late 1960s, Castillo has documented the Chicano community in Los Angeles and Texas. <https://www.facebook.com/events/193419312576419/>



Dolores Huerta & Cesar Chavez, among co-founders of United Farm Workers, along with Philip Vera Cruz, a Filipino.

SAT - MAR 27

Free LIVE-VIRTUAL Graffiti and Mural tour of Los Angeles, 4-5p, online. Tickets via Eventbrite Public · Anyone on or off Facebook Live-Virtual guided tour of Graffiti and Murals in the Arts District of Los Angeles. Your guide is an actual graffiti artist streaming live!

SUN - MAR 28

Online Improv Jam - FREE, 2-4p via Eventbrite. A free drop-in improv jam. No drills or exercises -- just a pick-up

game of improv. This free improv jam is 2 hours long and available from anywhere via Zoom! No experience is necessary to join and participate. We'll warm up and get everyone caught up to speed, and then the last 90 minutes, we all play together in a loose format. If you're interested in further affordable, accessible improv workshops/classes, check out our Spring Classes with LA County Parks & Rec, or check back for any upcoming events on Eventbrite.

<https://parks.lacounty.gov/spring21/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityImprovLA>
<https://www.meetup.com/Community-Improv-LA>

MON - MAR 29

Toaster: Reading the Room Poetry slam writers workshop, 4 Mondays 4:30-6:30p. \$160. <https://awfulgoodwriters.com/courses/toaster-reading-the-room/> Reading the Room is a workshop series that prepares writers to kick ass on stage. We'll explore what's scary, how to have fun when

stakes are high, and most importantly: how to read your audience. Tune in and see why every room is rooting for you! Toaster is the co-creator of Big Kid Slam, a poetry slam invested in centering marginalized voices, and terrible prizes. He has competed at every level of poetry slam, most recently competing as an Individual World Poetry Slam finalist. Toaster has featured in poetry events all over the US, Canada and most recently Germany. His work can be found on Button Poetry, All Def Digital, Sofar Sounds and National Public Radio. If you'd like to learn more about Toaster, ask his mom - she put a scrapbook together. (Also Apr 5. 12. 19) Twitter @himtoaster



TUE - MAR 30

PALEYFEST LA 2021 virtual hangout behind the scenes with TV actors and creators. Online \$\$ <https://www.paleycenter.org/events/paleyfest-la-2021/lineup/> Early access to Paley Members and Citi Cardmembers on March 26. Release to the public begins March 30. (Minimum membership in Paley Center for Media is \$75).

WED - MAR 31

International Women's Day 2021 UN theme:

Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world

British proto-Feminist Mary Wollstonecraft published her book *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* in 1792. It was a commentary on the unjustifiable behavior of both men and women that were responsible for the marginalization of women. Wollstonecraft wrote the book as a rationalist and realist and told women they should not ask for rights and independence unless they stop depending on men in their daily business.

“My own sex, I hope, will excuse me, if I treat them like rational creatures, instead of flattering their fascinating graces, and viewing them as if they were in a state of perpetual childhood, unable to stand alone. I do not wish them [women] to have power over men, but over themselves.”
 (Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*)

Many other women activists like Sojourner Truth appeared after Mary Wollstonecraft that led to the Seneca Falls Convention (1848), considered the first known event when women came out with unity and determination to demand equal rights. It was the start of Women's suffrage movement that began to demand social, civil and religious rights for women although it took seven decades to fulfill their demands. Around 300 women gathered at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was one of the convention organizers who started the meeting with the following words:

“We are assembled to protest against a form of government, existing without the consent of the governed — to declare our right to be free as man is free, to be represented in the government which we are taxed to support, to [end] such disgraceful laws as give man the power to chastise and imprison his wife, to take the wages



which she earns, the property which she inherits, and, in case of separation, the children of her love.”

The third major development in the struggle for women's rights appeared in 1908, when around 15,000 women marched through the streets of New York. They demanded shorter working hours, better wages, and the right to vote. The march gained public attraction and the Socialist Party of America held the first-ever National Women's Day a year after the march. It was Clara Zetkin who suggested in the International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen (1910) to celebrate an international day of women annually. 100 known women from 17 countries had come together there and they approved the suggestion unanimously. Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland observed International Women's Day on March 19, 1911.

Around a million women and men gathered to mark history. Thus, technically this year we will celebrate 110th International Women's Day. It was not until 1917 when Russian women demanded “bread and peace” throughout the streets of Russia during WWI. Women had gathered the first time in the history of Russia on such a large scale. They kept marching for 4 long days when finally the Tsar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote to acknowledge their power.

The date when women's strike began was 23 February according to the Julian calendar that was in effect in Russia then whereas this was 8 March according to the Gregorian calendar. This is the reason that 8 March is considered International Women Day because women held a historical and successful campaign on this day.

The United Nations Organization that was already in the favor of a world with gender and racial parity since its establishment embraced the idea of observing an international day of women and designated March 8 for that purpose. It started to celebrate the day with a theme and announced that it would work with the full potential to eliminate gender-disparity from the world. 1975 was celebrated as the International Women's Year by the United Nations because UN resolution 3010 was adopted by the international community that year. Further, the UN passed a resolution 31/136 and declared the years from 1976 to 1985 as the “Decade of Women”.

The UN held conferences in Beijing between 4 and 15 September 1995. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) was concluded after these conferences which aim at removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through ensuring women a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. The UN has added

the mission of giving women all their rights to its Millennium Development Goals and it envisions eliminating gender-disparity by 2030.

Public Activities on International Women's Day

International Women's Day is observed as a public holiday in many countries of the world including Russia, China, Europe, Australia, Canada, and many other countries. It is celebrated on March 8 throughout the world and activities are held like rallies for women's rights, seminars, and conferences. The majority of Chinese women employees get half-day leave on this day.

The global community has achieved historical milestones in the struggle for the rights of women since the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted in 1995, and the current year is remarkable in this struggle.

The next generations of women and girl leaders and gender equality activists, the women's rights advocates and visionaries on whose shoulders the advocates and activists stand would gather here to celebrate the observance with passion, determination, and fortitude.

Although men are suffering a greater death toll from COVID, women are bearing the brunt of the social and economic costs, with more domestic violence, greater job loss and increased inequality within the home. Nevertheless, women and LGBTQIA people have made enormous strides, including the legalization of abortion in Chile and Argentina, exposures of and resistance to sexual harassment in the workplace, recognition of the links between misogyny, gender inequality and other forms of oppression and exploitation. At the same time, struggle over “white feminism” and exposure of many US white women's support for Trump and for racist use of police have made clear the need for anti-racism and internationalism.

The Envoy, the ADL & Me

...Continued from p. 1

This deal was designed to circumvent the restrictions on cops by having ADL operatives carry out political espionage for the police on Black student groups, anti-apartheid organizations, militant anti-racist and anti-Klan activists, and Arab, Muslim and Palestinian people, in return for access to other police data and investigative resources.

When the program was exposed, and the list of targeted organization was released via a civil suit against the ADL and the PDs, behold, my group, then called People Against Racist Terror (PART), was on the list.

But the ADL malfeasance under Foxman didn't end there. The ADL operative tasked with infiltrating the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) was also 'monitoring' Holocaust-denial groups that had neo-Nazi members.

He repeatedly tried to distribute the literature denying Hitler's genocide against European Jewry at ADC activities and unsuccessfully to involve ADC members in attending such events with him. Such dirty tricks and entrapment are reprehensible.

It is one of the reasons that to this day Palestinian movements such as the non-violent international effort for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), led by Palestinian civil society, expressly disavow any involvement by antisemitic and racist elements.

groups, not on students advocating for non-violent resistance to oppression or an end to US and corporate collaboration with occupation and repression.

Just as in times past the JDL and the ADL have had me in their cross-hairs for my anti-racist activism, these latest moves, including the possible appointment of Foxman to such a post, put a target squarely on me again, as I am a member of BDS-LA, which previously campaigned against HP's involvement with bio-metric ID cards for Palestinians, as well as with ICE and the CA prison system.

We're currently engaged in a campaign about similar involvements by Amazon, whose AWS supports Palantir's "big data" intel gathering for LAPD and 100s of PDs, as does its "Ring" doorbell camera, and whose Whole Foods subsidiary sells products from settler enterprises in the occupied Palestinian territories. Amazon contracts with Israeli weapons firms for its cargo aircraft.

If Biden is really interested in combating and monitoring antisemitism, he hardly needs to send an envoy outside the US, since numerous acts of white power violence and vandalism against Jews have taken place right here in the US, which has historically also produced antisemitic and racist propaganda for neo-Nazis in Canada and Germany, where such racist incitement is illegal.



The new effort to officially define criticism of Israel as antisemitism is in fact a response to the growing influence and impact of the BDS movement, which calls for full equal rights for all Israelis including Palestinians, an end to the occupation and siege of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza, and the right of return for the Palestinian diaspora, including all those living in refugee camps in Lebanon and elsewhere.

The working definition of anti-semitism has been put forward by the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Association) and is already being used on campuses to target and punish students educating about Israeli apartheid and to try to criminalize advocacy of BDS, or to require "loyalty oaths" from academics or journalists to disavow any support for BDS.

This is a massive attack on freedom of speech, press and academic inquiry. A struggle against antisemitism and hate should focus on the growing international threat and practice of violence by neo-Nazi and white power

And if he is going to appoint an Envoy on antisemitism as part of US foreign policy, he should have another envoy on Islamophobia.

You can find out more about the campaign against the IHRA "working definition" of antisemitism and the effort to stop Biden from appointing Foxman or someone similar as Special Envoy here:

<https://www.ifnotnowmovement.org/our-campaigns>
(click on 'fighting antisemitism and white nationalism').

You can follow the campaign around Amazon and its attacks on workers, involvement in state surveillance, and role with Israel and the occupation here:

<https://bds-la.org>

Sign a petition to Joe Biden and Secy of State Tony Blinken here:
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/send-a-letter-to-biden-and-blinken-its-a-new-era-we-need-a-new-envoy-who-will-fight-antisemitism-with-integrity>

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The Decline and Fall of the US Empire

by Medea Benjamin and Nicolas J. S. Davies

In 2004, journalist Ron Suskind quoted a Bush White House advisor, reportedly Karl Rove, as boasting, "We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality." He dismissed Suskind's assumption that public policy must be rooted in "the reality-based community." "We're history's actors," the advisor told him, "...and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do."

Sixteen years later, the U.S. wars and war crimes launched by the Bush administration have only spread chaos and violence far and wide, and this historic conjunction of criminality and failure has predictably undermined the USA's international power and authority. Back in the imperial heartland, the political marketing industry that Rove and his colleagues were part of has had more success dividing and ruling the hearts and minds of people in the US than of Iraqis, Russians or Chinese.

The irony of the Bush administration's imperial pretensions was that the US has been an empire from its very founding, and that a White House staffer's political use of the term "empire" in 2004 was not emblematic of a new and rising empire as he claimed, but of a decadent, declining empire stumbling blindly into an agonizing death spiral.

People in the US were not always so ignorant of the imperial nature of their country's ambitions. George Washington described New York as "the seat of an empire," and his military campaign against British forces there as the "pathway to empire." New Yorkers eagerly embraced their state's identity as the Empire State, which is still enshrined in the Empire State Building and on New York State license plates.

The expansion of US territorial sovereignty over Native American lands, the Louisiana Purchase and the annexation of northern Mexico in the Mexican-American War built an empire that far outstripped the one that George Washington built. But that imperial expansion was more controversial than most Americans realize. Fourteen out of fifty-two U.S. senators voted against the 1848 treaty to annex most of Mexico, without which people in the US might still be visiting California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Utah and most of Colorado as exotic Mexican travel spots. The US Senate rejected the treaty with which the US tried to annex Hawaii after a plantation-owners' coup backed by US Marines.

In the full flowering of the U.S. empire after World War II, its leaders understood the skill and subtlety required to exercise imperial power in a post-colonial world. No country fighting for independence from the U.K. or France was going to welcome imperial invaders from the USA. So US leaders developed a system of neocolonialism through which they exercised overarching imperial sovereignty over much of the world, while scrupulously avoiding terms like "empire" or "imperialism" that would undermine their post-colonial credentials.

It was left to critics like President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana to seriously examine the imperial control that wealthy countries still exercised over nominally independent post-colonial countries like his. In his book, *Neo-Colonialism: the Last Stage of Imperialism*, Nkrumah condemned neocolonialism as "the worst form of imperialism." "For those who practice it," he wrote, "it means power without responsibility, and for those who suffer from it, it means exploitation without redress."

So post-World War II, people in the US grew up in carefully crafted ignorance of the very fact of US empire, and the myths woven to disguise it provide fertile soil for today's political divisions and disintegration. Trump's "Make America Great Again" and Biden's promise to "restore American leadership" are both appeals to nostalgia for the fruits of US empire.

Past blame-games over "who lost China?" or Vietnam or Cuba have come home to roost in an argument over who lost the US and who can somehow restore its mythical former greatness or leadership. Even as the US leads the world in allowing a pandemic to ravage its people and economy, neither party's leaders are ready for a more realistic debate over how to redefine and rebuild the USA as a post-imperial nation in today's multi-polar world.

Every successful empire has expanded, ruled and exploited its far-flung territories through a

combination of economic and military power. Even in the US empire's neocolonial phase, the role of the U.S. military and the CIA was to kick open doors through which US businessmen could "follow the flag" to set up shop and develop new markets.

But now U.S. militarism and U.S. economic interests have diverged. Apart from a few military contractors, US businesses have not followed the flag into the ruins of Iraq or America's other current war-zones in any lasting way. Eighteen years after the U.S. invasion, Iraq's largest trading partner is China, while Afghanistan's is Pakistan, Somalia's is the UAE (United Arab Emirates), and Libya's is the European Union (EU).

Instead of opening doors for US big business or supporting US diplomatic position in the world, the U.S. war machine has become a bull in the global china shop, wielding purely destructive power to destabilize countries and wreck their economies, closing doors to economic opportunity instead of opening them, diverting resources from real needs at home, and damaging America's international standing instead of enhancing it.

When President Eisenhower warned against the "unwarranted influence" of the US military-industrial complex, he was predicting precisely this kind of dangerous dichotomy between the real economic and social needs of the people of the US and a war machine that costs more than the next ten militaries in the world put together but cannot win a war or vanquish a virus, let alone re-conquer a lost empire.

China and the EU have become the major trading partners of most countries in the world. The United States is still a regional economic power, but even in South America, most countries now trade more with China. US militarism has accelerated these trends by squandering our resources on weapons and wars, while China and the EU have invested in peaceful economic development and 21st century infrastructure.

For example, China has built the largest high-speed rail network in the world in just 10 years (2008-2018), and Europe has been building and expanding its high-speed network since the 1990s, but high-speed rail is still only on the drawing board in America.

China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty, while the US poverty rate has barely budged in 50 years and child poverty has increased. The USA still has the weakest social safety net of any developed country and no universal healthcare system, and the inequalities of wealth and power caused by extreme neo-liberalism have left half of people in the US with little or no savings to live on in retirement or to weather any disruption in their lives.

Our leaders' insistence on siphoning off 66% of U.S. federal discretionary spending to preserve and expand a war machine that has long outlived any useful role in the US declining economic empire is a debilitating waste of resources that jeopardizes our future.

Decades ago Martin Luther King Jr. warned us that "a nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

As our government debates whether we can "afford" COVID relief, a Green New Deal and universal healthcare, we would be wise to recognize that our only hope of transforming this decadent, declining empire into a dynamic and prosperous post-imperial nation is to rapidly and profoundly shift our national priorities from irrelevant, destructive militarism to the programs of social uplift that Dr. King called for.

Medea Benjamin is cofounder of CODEPINK for Peace, and author of several books, including *Inside Iran: The Real History and Politics of the Islamic Republic of Iran*. Nicolas J. S. Davies is an independent journalist, a researcher with CODEPINK and the author of *Blood On Our Hands: the American Invasion and Destruction of Iraq*.

Letter to the Editor

Cultured Meat

To the editor,

Democrats should include federal funding for cultured-meat research in their coronavirus-relief bill. For readers who aren't aware, cultured meat is grown from cells, without slaughter. Since animals are removed from the process, the risk of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 making the jump to humans is eliminated.

Our current food system — which relies on huge numbers of creatures packed together in dirty cages — is like kindling to the fire of a future pandemic. There is no reason to accept this danger. Though cultured meat is now more expensive than its slaughtered counterpart, this can be fixed with open-access research.

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Change Links replies: This is an important proposal. We recommend people read *The Sadism of Eating Real Meat Over Lab Meat* by Jan Dutkiewicz, Gabriel N. Rosenberg just published in The New Republic.
<https://newrepublic.com/article/161452/sadism-eating-real-meat-lab-meat>

Vegans Should Eat Eggs

by Anaïs Schlienger

<https://medium.com/illumination/why-vegans-should-eat-eggs-49a140d0f8e0>
Excerpts:

How did I come to this realization?

My father has hens, he lives in a small city and has a big garden. He loves his hens with all his heart. He cooks rice especially for them, takes the time to chop the vegetables' peelings for them and adds oats in their food. They are the happiest as they can be. Every day, or every two days, a hen lays an egg. And they won't stop doing it just because a human did not take the eggs out of the henhouse. Eventually, they will start hatching the egg, but we don't have a rooster, so what's the point? It keeps doing it for a day or two and moves on. I didn't see any reasons why I should not eat their eggs. They did not tick a single case of all the reasons that motivated me to go vegan.

Eating animal products is not ethical towards living beings

I saw how people can put 50 hens in one square meter. They can't even walk, so they just get bigger and bigger. They move so little that their legs are too weak to hold their weight, they break under it and the hens are paralyzed, laying in the same ground that is covered with their excrements.

But this is not the case everywhere. Not all farms are that bad and some are very respectful. Why I look at the hens in my garden, they look genuinely happy. They do what they want, use the space they want, and are treated like queens. If organic farms are at a much larger scale, they nonetheless offer great space, great food, and decent treatment to the hens. Choose organic, free-range eggs. If you can pay \$5 for a portion of tofu or seitan, you can pay \$5 for a box of eggs. If organic, respectful farmers are better paid and generate more income than they used to, they will develop, and others will be encouraged to do the same. So your expense supports local farmers and not big companies who produce massively.

Veganism is for the planet

Reducing meat consumption reduces the emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases (NH4). It also reduces the consumption of water. A vegetarian diet produces 2.5 times less carbon than a meat-friendly diet. But what about eggs? Eggs have pretty low greenhouse emissions. According to a 2009 study by the ADEME, eggs pollutes 5 times less than cheese and 10 times less than beef (kg equivalent carbon). Of course, it is still higher than vegetables.

Eggs are local

What you can't take away from eggs is that they are always grown locally. Can we say the same for all vegetables and fruits? We already know about bananas, avocados, pineapples. What we don't think about is sweet potatoes. If you live in Europe, you can be sure your sweet potatoes come from the US. And tomatoes don't grow all year long. Guess what? Hens always produce eggs, everywhere.

Replacing eggs is worse than eating them

I agree that eating eggs emits its lot of CO2 and NH4. But when you want to take the eggs out of your diet, you need to replace them. And these food replacements might be worse for the planet than just eating the eggs right away. The more common food replacement I see for eggs (in cakes at least) are bananas and 'flax eggs'. Bananas often come from South America or Africa. Flax eggs and made with flax seeds (Russia, China, Egypt) or chia seeds (Mexico). If I stop myself from taking the plane to pollute less, why would I consume fruits that have traveled more than me? Moreover, eating local means also supporting the local economy. That is something the pandemic has taught us.

Your health matters

I grew up thinking eggs would raise our cholesterol, because the doctor told my granddad it was bad for him. Again, it's the drug lobby talking. With the year, we gained some transparency. And eggs are not that bad at all.

All the good eggs can do to you

- Of course, they are full of protein and so are extremely satiating.
- The egg yolks are loaded vitamin D, which protects the brain, prevents cognitive decline and dementia.
- They are really good for the eyes. They contain lutein, which protects against degenerative diseases of the eye (diabetic retinopathy, AMD and cataracts).
- They are a great source of necessary fats.
- Finally, they reduce high blood pressure.

If we are going to live longer, we might as well live better.

Again, what they absolutely don't do — and I want to insist on it — is that they do not increase cholesterol levels neither do they increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Let's sum it up:

Eggs do not inherently violate the ethical, environmental or health reasons to go vegan. They fundamentally do not go against any of the principles and that is why I do not feel bad at all when I eat eggs.

Fungi's Lessons for Adapting to Life on a Damaged Planet

Book review: *Entangled Life: How Fungi Change Our Make Our World, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures*, by Merlin Sheldrake-via Random House

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/fungi-s-lessons-for-adapting-to-life-on-a-damaged-planet>
EXCERPT: *Merlin Sheldrake's new book Entangled Life looks at the complex world of fungi, its adaptive ability, and its interconnectedness with all other forms of life. He spoke with Robert Macfarlane, author of Underland, (see below reference) about his relationship to fungi and its strategic lessons on growth in the face of climate crisis.*

Entangled Life is a book about fungi, most of which live their lives as branching, fusing networks of tubular cells known as mycelium. Mycelium is how fungi feed. Animals tend to find food in the world and put it in their bodies; fungi put their bodies in the food. To do so, they must ceaselessly remodel themselves, weaving their bodies into relation with their surroundings.

Underland: A Deep Time Journey, book by Robert Macfarlane (Author, University of Cambridge) at: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393242140>

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/566795/entangled-life-by-merlin-sheldrake/> Paperback \$18.00 Apr 13, 2021 ISBN 9780525510321

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Thanks! You'll be glad you did!

MOVE TO AMEND Video Resource: "A Question of Personhood" introduces corporate constitutional rights issue and Move to Amend. 7 min 35 sec Search "Personhood" on youtube.com
Move to Amend Local meeting: Last Saturday of the month, 1-3p. Holy Grounds Coffee & Tea, 5371 Alhambra Ave, LA. 323.255.1279

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