

## APRIL 2021 Community Calendar

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

Apr 7 - Deadline for membership in  
Pacifica Radio to qualify to vote on  
Bylaws in June

Apr 11 - Patrisse Cullors: F\*ck  
White Supremacy-Let's Get Free!

April 17-23 LA Times Festival of  
Books with USC

Apr 22 - Earth Day

Apr 29 - Visionaries of Color  
Transforming the Art World  
UCLA Hammer Museum

## Corporate Landlords Are Taking Over L.A. Will Politicians Do Anything About it?

by Patrick Range McDonald

<https://www.housinghumanright.org/corporate-landlords-are-taking-over-l-a-will-politicians-do-anything-about-it/>

A new, must-read report by Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) has made one thing eye-poppingly clear: corporate landlords are taking over Los Angeles. With that, SAJE points out, L.A. renters are increasingly dealing with predatory practices — such as sudden evictions and unfair, excessive rents — that turn their lives upside down. The question now is, will Mayor Eric Garcetti and the L.A. City Council do anything about it?

For “Beyond Wall Street Landlords: How Private Equity in the Rental Market Harms Tenants,” SAJE policy analyst Alexander Ferrer exhaustively examined public data and a wealth of academic research. What he found was alarming: more than two-thirds of all Los Angeles rental housing is owned by corporate investment vehicles. That includes secretive limited liability companies, or LLCs, that hide the names of property owners.

“We found that corporate vehicles own over 43 percent of all rental units in the City of Los Angeles today,” Ferrer writes at Knock LA. “Corporate landlords own, on average, over twelve times as many units as individual owners do, buildings that are over five times larger, and ten years newer on average than individual landlord’s buildings are. Trusts — which are larger than ‘mom-and-pops,’ meaning ownership of more than four units — own 23 percent of all units, and have investment patterns much more akin to corporate landlords than to individuals, owning larger, newer buildings, and having larger portfolios in general.”

### It’s a crucial finding — a game changer.

For years, housing justice activists have cited the wide, devastating impacts of predatory

corporate landlords on middle- and working-class residents — from worsening gentrification to skyrocketing rents that are fueling the housing affordability



crises in L.A. and other cities. The California Apartment Association and other landlord lobbying groups have always countered that corporate landlords don’t own all that much real estate — and therefore the activists’ concerns about corporate landlords are overblown. The SAJE study shows the activists are right.

“On the topic of the mythical ‘mom-and-pop landlord,’” Ferrer writes, “we also found that the vast majority of properties are not owned by ‘mom-and-pops’ (defined by the city of L.A. as any property owner with fewer than five rental units) despite rhetoric to that effect being popular among vocal defenders of landlord interests. In fact, all landlords of this size own only about one-third of rental properties, and individual owners (as opposed to small companies) own less than a quarter. With 75 percent of tenants living in buildings owned by investment vehicles or large landlords, their needs should be the priority over a small class of owners.”

To rein in predatory corporate landlords in California, Housing Is A Human Right helped lead Proposition 10, in 2018, and Proposition 21, in 2020, both of which aimed to expand rent control in California. Unsurprisingly, corporate

landlords poured tens of millions into the opposition campaigns, rolling out misleading TV ads that confused and tricked voters and successfully defeated both Prop 10 and Prop 21.

Now, in L.A., Housing Is A Human Right is fighting the troubling update of the Hollywood Community Plan, City Hall’s guide for new development in the Hollywood area. Predatory practices in the real estate industry are not only carried out by corporate landlords, but also corporate developers, who build the largest projects in L.A. and routinely evict tenants and carry out other shady methods to construct luxury housing. The ongoing “pay-to-play” scandal at L.A. City Hall is just one example.

So far, the proposed update does not require sizable percentages of lower-income housing in new developments, does not create strong protections against gentrification and

displacement, and largely takes away residents’ say in what’s built in their neighborhoods. But the Hollywood Community Plan is filled with giveaways for corporate developers.

Housing Is A Human Right is demanding that the L.A. Planning Department and L.A. City Councilmembers Mitch O’Farrell, Nithya Raman, and Paul Koretz — whose districts lie inside the Hollywood Community Plan area — look out for residents first and foremost. That includes robust tenant protections and a large percentage of lower-income housing in luxury-housing projects.

Housing Is A Human Right and other activists are waiting to see what will be the councilmembers’ next move. If they ignore activists, O’Farrell, Raman, and Koretz are signaling that they have no problem with corporate landlords’ predatory practices — and, in fact, they’re willing to be accomplices.

The rise of corporate landlords and developers in L.A. spells trouble for middle- and working-class residents. Corporate real estate companies are driven by an insatiable appetite for bigger and bigger profits — no matter the consequences for the public. Mayor Eric Garcetti and the L.A. City Council must rein in the corporations with sensible regulations, but will they? Big Real Estate executives, after all, are among the largest contributors to their campaign coffers.

## GET CONNECTED – CHANGE THE WORLD!

# changeLinks

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

April 7 Deadline to Qualify to Vote

## Democracy & Diversity in Danger at KPFFK/Pacifica Radio!

by Pacifica Fightback <https://pacificafightback.org>

The folks who illegally shut down Pacifica station WBAI in NYC in 2019, and who were behind the “Pacifica Restructuring Project” (PRP) Bylaws replacement that was roundly rejected by a 2:1 margin by both listener and staff members in March 2020, are back again, calling themselves “New Day Pacifica”, with a new plan to rule or ruin Pacifica. For more details, see <https://pacificafightback.org>.

They are trying to use real financial concerns and red-baiting to scare you into signing away your democratic rights, by blaming elected governance for declining membership. They are offering a new set of Bylaws that would allow a consolidated majority from a single station (mainly KPFA) to control the whole Foundation and network, with top-down power to sell off or swap network assets, like the station signals. They are basing their campaign on the support of paid programmers at KPFFK and KPFA, when excessive payroll costs at the two stations threaten the whole foundation.

The General Manager at KPFFK, who has presided over a steady period of declining membership and revenue, with repeated, extended fund drives that have consumed almost half the total broadcast time while still failing to balance the station’s budget, has left for greener pastures at NPR affiliate KCRW. This reflects a management

the NPR powerhouse, has reportedly already advanced the idea of a signal swap for KPFFK’s much more powerful license of 90.7 FM and coverage from Santa Barbara to San Diego, and a KPFA-dominated national board, desperate for funds and losing listeners, might accept such a deal for the cash infusion SCPR would offer.



philosophy more in tune and in keeping with National Petroleum Radio, rather than Pacifica’s express commitment to peace, justice and diversity, free of corporate sponsorship. The outgoing GM strongly backed both attempts to replace the Bylaws and end democratic governance, as well as the shutdown and takeover of WBAI, but has left the station in such a red-ink deficit situation because of excessive payrolls and reduced income, that his prior allies at KPFA are threatening to turn KPFFK into a repeater station, carrying only KPFA’s content, and scrapping all local programming, as they attempted with WBAI.

The proposed new bylaws grab the four officer positions (chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer of a new national board) without allowing any opposition candidates. They would permanently divide the paid and unpaid staff and reduce their representation, creating a new third class of members from the unpaid staff at all five stations, who would have a single representative. They splinter the rest of the National Board into a series of single-member seats which will fall to those with the finances to dominate in situations like this.

These new bylaws would also strip away all powers of elected local oversight over management, finances or programming policies and fairness, from the Local Station Boards, reducing them to a powerless sham. Last time out, they even tried to eliminate Pacifica’s explicit commitment to diversity, peace and justice. What would be the likely outcome of their serial winner-take-all elections? KPCC,

These new Bylaws would also basically overturn Pacifica’s current Single Transferable Voting system which gives Pacifica’s diverse voices a seat at the table. That really matters. Their Bylaws produce a self-perpetuating national board majority with the Board itself appointing 3 at-large members. The board majority would also have the power to replace locally-elected station reps and the reps elected by staff if a vacancy occurs for any reason.

### Vote “No” To Keep Pacifica Democratic, Diverse, And Intact!

We need to fight again to retain democracy and keep radical BIPOC community voices on the air in Pacifica, and to restore KPFFK to a path of community engagement! KPFFK and Pacifica can only survive by rebuilding as a platform for the self-determined, grassroots voices of communities of solidarity, resistance and liberation. To vote on the upcoming anti-democratic Pacifica bylaws replacement, you must have given \$25 or more or volunteered 3 hours, to your station between April 8, 2020 and April 7, 2021. If in doubt, donate to KPFFK, KPFA, KPFT, WBAI or WPFW on-line by April 7. You can find more information at <https://elections.pacifica.org> and on KPFFK’s website and airwaves. Voting starts June 7.

*Disclaimer: This communication has not been paid for by the KPFFK LSB, any Pacifica station or board or the Pacifica Foundation. It is a campaign communication distributed by or on behalf of Pacifica Fightback for Democracy. Otherwise, it has no affiliation with or endorsement by the Pacifica Foundation, any of its stations or boards.*

**Prayers of Petition**

© by Barbara Jane Reyes

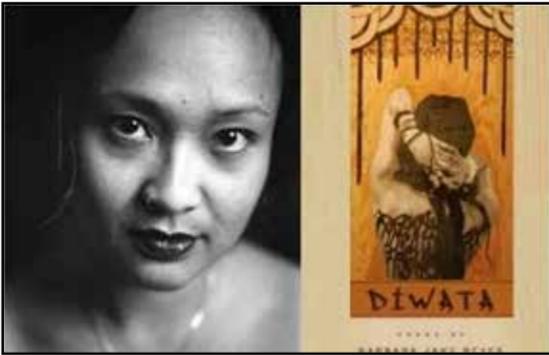
Excerpt:

To the Patron Saint of Encumbered Wives

*Hija con la barba, pray for us*  
 Bearded maiden of the cross, we have  
*Many stake claim upon us*  
 No sanctuary from the fathers' will  
*Santa Librada, crucificada*  
 Our husbands' whims, and our sons  
*This burden of patriarchs*  
 Ravaging the sad vessels of namesake.  
*Hija con la barba, virgo fortis*  
 Bearded maiden, they say you are myth,  
*Corseted messiah, bogeywoman*  
 They brand us cult of hysterical girls,  
*Sacrilegious sister, que bárbara*  
 They smash our faces with their fists  
*We are the encumbered wives*  
 They shove our bodies, they spit on us.  
*Hija con la barba, cut us loose*  
 Bearded maiden, we are ungraced  
*Unwife our brutish husbands*

*"I am not your ethnic spectacle," declares Reyes (To Love as Aswang) in her powerful fifth collection. "I write whether or not you invite my words." Reyes fuses elegy, psalm, prayer, and the language of protest as a challenge to hegemonic, patriarchal, and colonialist narrative-making. Moving among English, Spanish, and Tagalog, Reyes chronicles the ways legal and judicial systems fail to protect Filipina women such as Mary Jane Veloso, who sits on death row in Indonesia, and Jennifer Laude, a trans woman murdered by a U.S. Marine stationed in the Philippines. She boldly exposes and documents violence against Pinay women while also embracing a liminal, transitory, trilingual identity: "This lyric-making me, now a dazzling we." Reyes writes with conviction about the various ways imperialism transforms women into "capital, collateral, damaged soul." However, the women that appear throughout the book are not merely victims; in Reyes's radical cosmology, these women—these daughters—are rebels, saints, revolutionaries, and torchbearers, "sharp-tongued, willful." This book is a call to arms against oppressive languages, systems, and traditions, all that "strips us of our kick and grit." In choosing to be ethical, and by refusing to submit to oppression, Reyes writes, "We rise/ And in writing, we restore our lives." Publishers Weekly, starred review of Invocation To Daughters (City Lights Spotlight No. 16). Reyes has a BA from UC Berkeley and an MFA from SF State. She is the author of several poetry collections, including Gravities of Center (2003), Poeta en San Francisco (2005) which won the James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets, and Diwata (2010). Her fifth, Invocation to Daughters (2017), was a 2018 California Book Award Finalist.*

<https://barbarajanereyes.com/portfolio/invocation-to-daughters/>



-----paid advertisement-----

**Nicaragua Support Fund U.S.A. International**  
**[In Spanish, Fondo de Apoyo a Nicaragua USA-Internacional (FAN)]**  
**1226 N. Alvarado Street**  
**Los Angeles, California 90026**

Since late 2014, our organization has been collecting voluntary tax payments, to be forwarded to the National Budget of the Government of Nicaragua. We have not yet forwarded any of the payments, because we're still working on getting more people on board. At the present time, our project bank account has \$8,508.00.

This year, 2021, is an election year in Nicaragua. And so we see it as an important year to contact the Nicaraguan Government and discuss with them the possibilities for forwarding our voluntary taxes. But before we do that, we want to give every one of you, the readers of Change Links Newspaper, the chance to join in the effort, by paying your voluntary taxes.

For those of you who are U.S. homeowners, we ask you to pay 250 dollars for each person in your household, one time per year. If neither you nor your parents are U.S. homeowners, we have a far lower rate. You should direct your check or money order to: Nicaragua Support Fund U.S.A. International. Send it to the Alvarado Street address above. What's the purpose of all this?

We stand for socialism, democracy, and the environment. We believe that revolutionary citizens of the high-paying countries need to make a financial sacrifice, to help the changes now underway in revolutionary countries. Ever since July 19, 1979, the Nicaraguan Revolution has been a beacon for revolutionary change in the Third World countries. If Nicaragua can break through and deliver a decent standard of living for all of her citizens, then that beacon can light up the world.

The hard part is this. Can Nicaragua break through and improve her standard of living without pursuing environmental destruction? — Without building large dams that flood out forests, farmland and canyons? — Without cutting down the rainforest to make way for palm oil plantations? And the most important by far: — without building an international shipping canal that endangers the largest tropical freshwater lake in the Western Hemisphere, Lake Nicaragua?

Our project supports the Sandinista National Liberation Front in the effort to transform Nicaragua. But we have two areas of disagreement. We favor presidential term limits, preferably of two consecutive terms. And most important: we oppose environmentally destructive projects, especially the proposed Nicaragua canal.

Elected governments face major pressure from their citizens who want a higher standard of living. As US supporters of Nicaragua, we want to offer the Nicaraguan Sandinista government a way to improve living standards without pursuing environmental destruction. We are willing and eager to lower our own living standards (by paying voluntary taxes), so that the people of Nicaragua can attain higher living standards. That is a good alternative to environmental destruction.

==FAN Project Officers: Steve Edinger, Mayahuel Lopez, Orlando Lopez, Shuli Rayberg

**Nicaragua Support Fund U.S.A. International**  
**BUILD A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE**  
**PROTECT THE TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT**

We are U.S. and International supporters who are contributing to financing the Nicaraguan national government budget. [A part of our payments may also go to finance the budgets of other Latin American socialist governments] We hope that with our help, the Nicaraguan government will be able to keep its financial house in order, without engaging in projects that harm the environment. We are paying Nicaragua to protect the tropical environment.

VOLUNTARY TAX FORM — YEAR 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
 2020 Tax to Nicaragua: # of people in your household [ ] X \$250.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of pets in your household (Applies only to mammals!) [ ] X \$1.00 per pet = \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL AMOUNT PAID FOR 2020 Tax: \_\_\_\_\_

**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, 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](mailto:changelinks2@gmail.com) to volunteer and learn more. We hope you will step up if you value the paper!

**On the 2nd or 3rd Thursday each month, we have a teleconference call to plan the next issue. Email us at [changelinks2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:changelinks2@gmail.com). Please include a bio & photo.

Submit articles, preferably in .doc format, to: [changelinks2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:changelinks2@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: <http://www.change-links.org>**

# Southern California Community Calendar

## APRIL 2021 Earth Month

Listings subject to change. Contact sponsor to verify date, time & venue. See [www.change-links.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.cooperationjackson.org)

**3rd Sunday, KPFC Local Station Board meeting**, 10:30a-2:30p. Open to the public with 3 opportunities for



short public comments. Check [www.kpftx.org](http://www.kpftx.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 KPFC 90.7 FM air waves and [kpfc.org](http://kpfc.org) or [kpftx.org](http://kpftx.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/SoCal350 Climate Action](https://facebook.com/SoCal350ClimateAction).

**Mondays, PeoplesStrike organizing calls**, 9a PDT, zoom call <https://peoplesstrike.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/PeoplesStrike> [mayday2020generalstrike@gmail.com](mailto: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/](mailto: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-LAChapter](http://www.Peace&FreedomParty.org-LAChapter). 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](mailto:Lfoy@im4humanintegrity.org). **Thursdays, 5:30-7p, Operation Ally Weekly Social Justice Conference Call**, [fb.com/justadvocacy](https://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](mailto:communications@icujp.org) for an invitation and instructions.

**Fridays, Vigil for Peace & Justice**, 5-6p, sponsored by KPFC 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](mailto: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, LA Poverty Department Movie Nights**, 7p, Skid Row History Museum & Archive, 250 S. Broadway, LA 90012. [movienights@lapovertydept.org](mailto:movienights@lapovertydept.org) 213-413-1077. Suspended for the duration.

**3rd Fri: Lawyers in the Library**, 1-4p, [www.lalawlibrary.org/classes](http://www.lalawlibrary.org/classes), 213-785-2516, 301 W. 1st, LA 90012. Not happening. All libraries in the city and county, as well as Santa Monica and other cities are closed.

**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](http://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@](mailto:endhomelessnessnowla@)



resonates to this day. Facilitator: Ben Seyfert UCLA Skirball Fellow in Modern Jewish Culture, is a PhD candidate whose dissertation focuses on the lost films of Late Weimar. He has a personal connection to the topic of German-Jewish émigrés in Hollywood: his family fled Nazi Germany for Los Angeles in the 1930s and 40s. He collaborated with his grandfather, Academy Award-winning documentarian Marcel Ophuls, to publish a book on the topic and bring this family history to the big screen. At UCLA, he has taught classes on émigré artists in Hollywood and the queer culture of Weimar Germany. Seyfert has authored contributions to film history in German, English, and French—most notably Goethe als Literatur-Figur (Wallstein Verlag, 2016) and Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema (Berghahn Books, 2020).

#### TUE - APR 6

**They Ain't Ready for Me Virtual Screening and Talk** Viewing period: Friday, April 2–Monday, April 5 Talk and Q&A: Tuesday, April 6, 5p. <https://www.skirball.org/programs/film/they-aint-ready-for-me> In the midst of renewed attention about America's ongoing crisis with gun violence, join community leader Tamar Manasseh and director Brad Rothschild for a conversation about the moving documentary *They Ain't Ready for Me*. Available to stream



Tamar Manasseh, African American rabbinical student in Chicago in the days leading up to the talk and Q&A, the film tells the story of Manasseh, an African American rabbinical student who is leading the fight against gun violence on the South Side of Chicago. For years, Manasseh, a mother of two, has spent every summer day sitting on the corner in her neighborhood, dedicating the area for safe play. Through this simple but revolutionary act, Manasseh reminds her neighbors that there are people who care if they live or die. The film explores the challenges and motivations of this fearless leader as she works to bring joy and safety to her community. Both authentically Jewish and authentically Black, Manasseh's layered cultural identity and magnetic personality combine to make her a force to be reckoned with—and she's just getting started. (2020, 89 min. No MPAA rating.)

#### WED - APR 7

**Deadline is 12 midnight Eastern (9pm PDT) to become a member of KPFK** to qualify to vote in the upcoming election on a Bylaws replacement (see article elsewhere in this issue. You can become a member by donating \$25 or more online here: <https://kpfk.wedid.it/>

#### THU - APR 8

#### FRI - APR 9

#### SAT - APR 10

**LUMINEX: 5 blocks of DTLA becomes an outdoor projection art playground**, 7:30-11:30p, between Olympic & Pico, between Flower and Olive, a series of art projections, free. The neighborhood is called South Park. <https://luminexla.com/experience> For media inquiries contact: Emma Jacobson-Sive [emma@ejs-media.com](mailto:emma@ejs-media.com)

#### SUN - APR 11

**Patrisse Cullors: F\*ck White Supremacy, Let's Get Free**, 12n–6p PDT. Join in on a worldwide electric slide, online with artist Patrisse Cullors and DJ collectives *Everyday People* in New York City and *Cumbiatón* in Los Angeles. This program invites everyone around the globe to move together, united by a groove and the freeing act of dancing. Share your own electric slide online with #LetsGetFree. <https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/patrisse-cullors-fck-white-supremacy-lets-get-free> This live, online performance includes DJ sets introduced with a conversation between Cullors and Hammer Museum associate curator Erin Christovale.

Cullors previously performed F\*ck White Supremacy, Let's Get Free in early 2020 for the Frieze Los Angeles art fair. Led by Cullors, dancers wore headphones and moved together

silently through the fair. It was accompanied by video documentation in a storefront with merchandise and information in support of the nonprofit foundations Reform L.A. Jails and Black Lives Matter. For the Hammer's edition of the event, Cullors has moved the entire performance online in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

**Committee For Racial Justice (CRJ) focus on housing issues.** Free, 6:30-8p zoom meeting. Register first at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8121212121> Members of our panel include Santa Monica's mayor, Sue Himmelrich, and Michael Soloff, both of whom have years of experience with our topic and will speak on the current housing status and recent results of our Santa Monica Housing Element session, which will begin the process of putting plans in place for housing for the next 8 years. Among other issues, CRJ will also look to explore the following:

How is the city addressing the needs of its most vulnerable residents, especially those who hold Section 8 vouchers, but are unable to find housing? What is the city doing to give incentives to landlords to encourage accepting Section 8 vouchers? What is the city doing to work with Community Corp and other property owners to assist low-income residents find housing? How is the LA area dealing with federal monies to aid people who are in need of help with back rent coming due? What is the outreach into communities of color?



LUMINEX projection: Wind of LA

Come join this important discussion. For more information, call Joanne at 310-422-5431.

**Oscar-nominated Shorts: Live Action narratives**, 6:30p, Warner Grand theater, San Pedro, \$18. [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org), phone:310-548-7672, 478 W. 6th St. San Pedro 90731

#### MON - APR 12

**From Weimar to Hollywood German-Jewish Filmmaking Rediscovered** (See Mon Apr 5)

#### TUE - APR 13

#### WED - APR 14

#### THU - APR 15

**Income tax deadline extended until May 17.**

#### FRI - APR 16

#### SAT - APR 17

**LA Times Festival of Books at USC (see Ongoing Events for links)**

11:00AM POLITICS/HISTORY **Immigrants and American Society, A Historical Look** :: Anthony Cody, Adam Goodman, Jacob Soboroff, Jia Lynn Yang, Danial Hernandez (Mod)

12:00PM YOUNG

ADULT

**Young Adult Fiction: The Poetry of the Black Experience** :: Dean Atta, Morgan Parker, Dr. Yusef Salaam, Ibi Zoboi, Hannah Gómez (Mod)

2:00PM USC STAGE **Selfies for Social Change: Claiming Space in Social Media** :: Presented by USC :: Jackson Bird, Akilah Hughes, Alissa V. Richardson, Ph.D., Colin Maclay (Mod)

3:00PM POLITICS/HISTORY **Criminal Justice in America** :: Brittany K. Barnett, Emily Bazelon, Christine Montross, M.D., Sandy Banks (Mod)

#### SUN - APR 18

**KPFK Local Station Board regular business meeting**, free, via zoom. See [kpfk.org](http://kpfk.org) or [kptx.org](http://kptx.org) for details. There are 30 minutes of uncensored public comment at each meeting.

**LA Times Festival of Books at USC (see Ongoing Events for links)**

3:00PM Fiction / Poetry **The Black Experience Across Genres** :: S. A. Cosby, Danielle Evans, Nikky Finney, Robert Jones, Jr., Marcus Anthony Hall (Mod)

4:00PM USC Stage **Music, Money, and Mindfulness** :: Presented by USC :: Jeff Brabec, Lynn Holding, Richard "Wolfie" Wolf, Varun Soni (Mod)

5:00PM Fiction **Fiction Makes the World Go Round** :: Change-rae Lee, Meng Jin, Imbolo Mbue,

Sanjena Sathian, Boris Kachka (Mod)

**Oscar-nominated Shorts: Animation**, 6:30p, Warner Grand theater, San Pedro, \$18. [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org), phone:310-548-7672, 478 W. 6th St. San Pedro 90731

#### MON - APR 19

**From Weimar to Hollywood German-Jewish Filmmaking Rediscovered** (See Mon Apr 5)

**LA Times Festival of Books**

5:00PM Main Stage **Richard Thompson, "Beeswing: Losing My Way and Finding My Voice 1967-1975"** in conversation with RJ Smith

6:00PM Fiction **This Moment in Fiction** :: Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, Patricia Lockwood, Lauren Oyler, Amy Kaufman (Mod)

7:00PM Thriller/Mystery **Crime Fiction: Secrets and Suspense** :: Christopher Bollen, Tod Goldberg, Jennifer Hillier, Paula L. Woods (Mod)

#### TUE - APR 20

**LA Times Festival of Books**

12:00PM Main Stage **Don Lemon, "This is the Fire: What I Say to My Friends About Racism"** in conversation with Greg Braxton

5:00PM Fiction **Native American Literature: A Panel Honoring the Legacy of Leslie Marmon Silko**, 2020 Robert Kirsch Award Winner :: Brandon Hobson, David Heska Wanbli Weiden

6:00PM USC Stage **Making History: Media, Stories, History, and Memory** :: Presented by USC :: William Deverell, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Howard Rodman, Priya Jaikumar (Mod)

#### WED - APR 21

In Remembrance: Treasures of Armenian Classical, Contemporary & Folk Music, 7p, UCLA Hammer Museum, Copresented by the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. The Hammer is preparing to re-open April 17, but check their website. Celebrate Armenia's rich musical heritage with exquisite performances of works spanning more than one thousand years. In commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, the concert presents works by mystic philosopher Saint Grigor Narekatsi, beloved 18th-century bard Sayat-Nova, and the revered master composer Komitas Vardapet alongside selections by contemporary masters Tigran Mansurian, Artashes Kartalyan, and Geghuni Chitjian. Enjoy an evening of performances by the UCLA VEM Ensemble with special guest Armen Adamian, director of the UCLA Armenian Music Ensemble, performing on the duduk (դուդուկ). Introduction by artistic director, violinist, and UCLA professor Movses Pogossian. <https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/remembrance-treasures-armenian-classical-contemporary-folk-music>

#### THU - APR 22 EARTH DAY

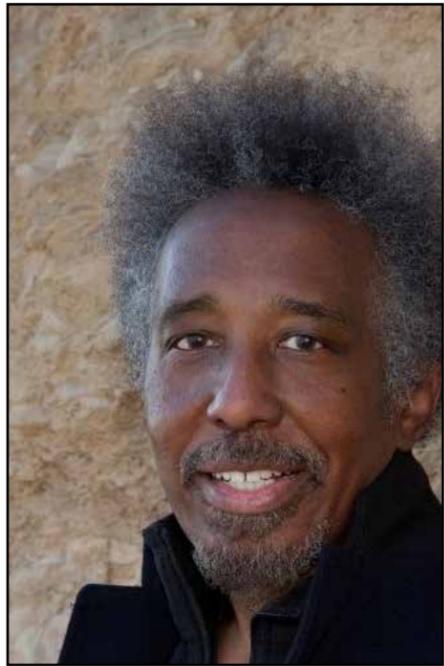
**Celebrating Earth Day with US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo: An American Sunrise | Virtual Talk**, 7p. In honor of Earth Day, hear esteemed poet Joy Harjo read selections from her vast body of work—including from her latest book of poetry, *An American*

**Sunrise.** A member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Harjo is the first Native American to be named Poet Laureate of the United States. Joining in conversation with literary curator Louise Steinman (pictured below), Harjo explores the ways her poems create a dialogue with history: finding blessings in the abundance of her homeland and thrumming with quiet anger at living in the ruins of injustice. Books available for purchase from [booksoup.com](https://www.booksoup.com). Free online program, reservations required. <https://www.skirball.org/programs/words-and-ideas/celebrating-earth-day-us-poet-laureate-joy-harjo>

#### LA Times Festival of Books

6:00PM **Memoir: Rebuilding Life After Loss** :: Emily Rapp Black, Suleika Jaouad, Sara Seager, Dinah Lenney (Mod)  
7:00PM USC Stage **Eastside Punks, A Screening and Conversation** :: Presented by USC :: Jimmy Alvarado, Teresa Covarrubias, Tracy Lee (Skull) Garcia, Jack Rivera, Dino Everett (Mod)

**Frank B. Wilderson III: Afropessimism and the Status of the Subject**, 5p, UCLA Hammer Museum, Copresented with the UCLA program in Experimental Critical Theory. Afropessimism, Frank B. Wilderson III's unique work of literature, philosophy, and memoir, asks the question: why does race—in its myriad manifestations—seem to color almost every pore of our moral and political universe? This provocative question among others guides Wilderson's



Prof. Frank B. Wilderson III

exploration of Black suffering and how a perpetual form of political, intellectual, and cultural slavery continues to define the Black experience. Wilderson is an award-winning writer and Chancellor's Professor and chair of African American Studies at UC Irvine. The talk is followed by a Q&A moderated by UCLA professor Kenneth Reinhard. <https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/frank-b-wilderson-iii-afropessimism-and-status-subject>

#### FRI - APR 23

**LA Times Festival of Books closing day**

11:00AM Politics / History  
**History: Racism and Exclusion in the United States** :: Alice Baumgartner, Walter Johnson, Martha S. Jones, Anna-Lisa Grace Cox (Mod)  
1:00PM Newstory  
**Gustavo Arellano with MacArthur Fellows :: Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Natalia Molina**

2:00PM Science / Health  
**Science and Nature: From the Page**

**to Wilder Places** :: Jonathan Meiburg, Lulu Miller, Jonathan C. Slaght, Patrik Svensson, Mary Forgiione (Mod)  
4:00PM Fiction

**Kristin Hannah, Author of "The Four Winds," and C Pam Zhang, Author of "How Much of These Hills Is Gold,"** in Conversation with Patt Morrison  
5:00PM Fiction

**Fiction: The Art of Short Story** :: Carribean Fragoza, Ben Okri, Deesha Philyaw, Shruti Swamy, Dorany Pineda (Mod)  
7:00PM Romance

**Fiction: Swept Away By Romance** :: Amalie Howard, Eloisa James, Erica Ridley, Vanessa Riley, Elle Jackson (Mod)

#### SAT - APR 24

**Oscar-nominated Documentaries**, 6:30p, Warner Grand theater, San Pedro, \$18. [www.warnergrand.org](http://www.warnergrand.org), phone:310-548-7672, 478 W. 6th St. San Pedro 90731

#### SUN - APR 25

#### MON - APR 26

**From Weimar to Hollywood German-Jewish Filmmaking Rediscovered** (See Mon Apr 5)

#### TUE - APR 27

#### WED - APR 28

**Discuss this year's Big Read pick, The Round House by Louise Erdrich.** Readers are transported to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota to unravel a mystery that galvanizes and transforms an entire community. This book is available with your library card on Overdrive, hoopla and for check out in our catalog using our Library To Go service. 1:30 p, Online - Granada Hills Branch Library. Please contact [grnhls@lapl.org](mailto:grnhls@lapl.org) for participation details. The National Endowment for the Arts Big Read, a partnership with Arts Midwest, broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. The Big Read is presented in Los Angeles by the Department of Cultural Affairs. <https://lapl.org/whats-on/events/big-read-round-house-louise-erdrich-6>

#### THU - APR 29

**We Are Here: Visionaries of Color Transforming the Art World**, 5p, UCLA Hammer Museum. They are preparing to reopen April 17, but check online. Jasmin Hernandez's new book **We Are Here: Visionaries of Color Transforming the Art World** features interviews and photography profiling 50 influential BIPOC artists and cultural producers, shifting the art world. Hernandez, the author and founder of Gallery Gurls, celebrates the release of her book in conversation with artists Genevieve Gaignard and Patrick Martinez and arts writer and curator Essence Harden. The panel will discuss how they are creating a more radically inclusive world. <https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2021/we-are-here-visionaries-color-transforming-art-world>

<https://gallerygurls.net/> Confidently curated by Jasmin Hernandez, the dynamic founder of Gallery Gurls, We Are Here presents the bold and nuanced work of Black and Brown visionaries transforming the art world.

#### FRI - APR 30

## Researchers Discover How Microorganisms Evolve Cooperative Behaviors

Press Release from ISB Director, Senior Vice President and Professor Dr. Nitin Baliga and ISB Senior Research Scientist Dr. Serdar Turkarslan

<https://isbscience.org/news/2021/03/03/how-microorganisms-evolve-cooperative-behaviors/>

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Interspecies interactions are the foundation of ecosystems, from soil to ocean to human gut. Among the many different types of interactions, syntrophy is a particularly important and mutually beneficial interspecies interaction where one partner provides a chemical or nutrient that is consumed by the other in exchange for a reward.

Syntrophy plays an essential role in global carbon cycles by mediating the conversion of organic matter to methane, which is about 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas and is a source of sustainable energy. And in the human gut, trillions of microbial cells also interact with each other and other species to modulate the physiology of their human host.

Therefore, deciphering the nature, evolution, and mechanism of syntrophic interspecies interactions is fundamental to understanding and manipulating microbial processes, bioenergy production and environmental sustainability.

However, what drives these interactions, how they evolve and how their disruption may lead to disease or ecosystem instability, is not well understood.

ISB researchers and collaborators aimed to tackle these fundamental questions to shed light on how interspecies interactions – specifically, cooperation – arise, evolve and are maintained. Their results provide a new window to understanding the key roles of these interactions in industrial applications, and in the health and disease of humans, animals and plants.

The study builds on the prior work on syntrophic interactions among two microbes – *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* (Dv) and *Methanococcus maripaludis* (Mm) – that coexist in diverse environments (gut, soil, etc.) and play a central role in an important step in biogeochemical carbon cycling.

With a multidisciplinary approach cutting across systems biology, microbiology, evolutionary biology and other disciplines, researchers analyzed massive amounts of genome sequence data generated from more than 400 samples. They investigated the temporal and combinatorial patterns in which mutations accumulated in both organisms over 1,000 generations, mapped lineages through high resolution single cell sequencing, and characterized the fitness and cooperativeness of pairings of their individual isolates.

The team uncovered striking evidence that mutations accumulated during evolution generate positive genetic interactions among rare individuals of a microbial community. These genetic interactions increase cooperativeness within these rare microbial assemblages, enabling their persistence, at very low frequency, within a larger productive population. In addition, researchers discovered one of the first examples of parallel evolution, that is, accumulation of mutations in similar genes across independently evolving populations, underlying the evolution of both organisms in a mutual community.

"This study is a significant step in understanding and manipulating early adaptive events in evolution of mutual[ly-reinforcing] interactions, with a wide range of applications for biotechnology, medicine and environment," said Dr. Serdar Turkarslan, senior research scientist in ISB's Baliga Lab and lead author of a paper recently published in *The ISME Journal*.

These discoveries are of great interest because they explain how diverse microbial populations co-exist in dynamically changing environments, such as in reactors, lake sediments and the human gut. Moreover, the study incorporates multi-scale systems analysis of diverse kinds of longitudinal datasets and experimental testing of hypotheses, [in order] to characterize a complex phenomenon that emerges from interactions at the genetic level between two [different] members of a microbial community.

"The methodologies, insights and resources generated by this study will have wide applicability to the study of other interspecies interactions and evolutionary phenomena," said ISB Professor, Director and Senior Vice President Dr. Nitin Baliga, a co-corresponding author of the paper. "One of the fundamental questions of biology is whether we can predict and modulate interspecies interactions such as the ones between the pathogens and their host environment."

"If we understand what the genes are that drive [the] interaction of pathogens with the host, we can design therapies to alter the host micro-environment and permissibility of infection, or by directly changing pathogen recognition. For industrial applications, we can quickly screen for the most cooperative mutations across different microbial consortia to facilitate production of public goods."

### What Is, and What Is Not, Antisemitism?

<https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>

The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism is a tool to identify, confront and raise awareness about antisemitism as it manifests in countries around the world today. It includes a preamble, definition, and a set of 15 guidelines that provide detailed guidance for those seeking to recognize antisemitism in order to craft responses. It was developed by a group of scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies to meet what has become a growing challenge: providing clear guidance to identify and fight antisemitism while protecting free expression. It has over 200 signatories.

### Leading Jewish scholars say BDS, one-state solution are not antisemitic

by Arno Rosenfeld <https://forward.com/news/466639/leading-jewish-scholars-say-bds-one-state-solution-are-not-antisemitic/>

Boycotting Israel and calling for an end to its Jewish majority is not inherently antisemitic, according to a new definition of antisemitism released Thursday by a group of more than 200 scholars of Jewish studies.

The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism represents the latest salvo in the debate over how to define anti-Jewish bigotry and is the most permissive of the mainstream definitions when it comes to attacks on Israel.

Alon Confino, a Jewish studies professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who helped draft the definition, said the document purposely did not take a position on the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that has been a third-rail issue in Jewish circles for years — or on whether a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the establishment of a single binational state would be preferable. Instead, he said, the group intended its declaration to help clarify the bounds of legitimate discourse.

"The JDA does not, of course, insinuate that the Jews do not deserve a state, but merely that denying this right is not in and of itself antisemitic," said Confino, who is also director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at UMass. "It belongs to the realm of political debate."

The Jerusalem document asks that governments and institutions use it as an alternative to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, which Jewish establishment groups have been calling on the Biden administration to adopt in various forms, but which many progressive Jewish groups and others oppose strongly, for conflating antisemitism with opposition to Israeli policies and treatment and occupation of Palestinians.

# The Epoch Times, Trump's Favorite Cult Propaganda Machine, and How U.S. Anti-COVID Efforts Have Been Derailed

by Lee Siu Hin <http://www.actionla.org:8080/actionla/front/index3.jsp> (click on part one & part two in index of articles)

*The Epoch Times*, the propaganda arm of the U.S.-backed Chinese cult Falun Gong, has built an unholy alliance among anti-China, anti-communist Republicans, far right domestic terrorists, and Donald Trump by organizing carpet-bombing amounts of unlimited fake news coverage against China, as well as by creating a tsunami amount of Facebook bot pages and YouTube QAnon channels supporting Trump's reelection campaign and discrediting the Democrats.

Their hard work has paid-off. Over the past several years *The Epoch Times* has become one of Trump's favorites among the White House press corps, gaining access to press conferences while many journalists from the People's Republic of China have been barred from the U.S. government.

No doubt *The Epoch Times* became the MAGA-land's favorite newspaper because their unprincipled and dark "election was stolen" fake news coverage had excited millions of far-right, pro-Trump Republicans across the U.S. resulting in the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Washington, DC, Capitol riots that killed five people.

Even more cynical, the signature *The Epoch Times*' racist "CCP Virus" fake news, along with massive pro-Trump extremist propaganda, has been one of the factors contributing to the global surge of racist and hateful Chinaphobic and anti-Asian violence.

Their active propaganda influence on anti-science, "no mask" anti-vaxxer movements has been indirectly responsible for hundreds of thousands of their supporters becoming infected with COVID, and tens of thousands of them dying across the U.S.

Backed by the U.S., most of *The Epoch Times*' global propaganda operations still have a Chinese edition targeting the People's Republic of China and aiming to overthrow the Chinese government and the Communist Party of China. Increasingly, however, they are using the same tactics to enter mainstream U.S. society (their English language edition copies the style of *The New York Times*), uniting the far-right and supporting its rise around the world on behalf of the U.S. global fascist strategies.

While already discredited and isolated from the mainstream Chinese-American community as a social movement, *The Epoch Times* Chinese edition still has small pockets of local anti-Communist readers (mainly right-wing immigrants from the Chinese mainland) catering to their hunger for anti-Chinese porn pleasure.

What they've done in the Chinese community for the past 20 years is EXACTLY the same as what they have been doing in mainstream American society for the past five.

The rise of *The Epoch Times* isn't "new" nor "accidental," it's a product of U.S. cold war covert PsyOp actions against other countries, and a brain-child of the U.S. fascist far-right.

## Who is *The Epoch Times*, anyway?

For Chinese-Americans, Falun Gong and *The Epoch Times* represent the most extreme fringe elements of their community.

*The Epoch Times* was created by the anti-China Falun Gong cult exiled to the U.S. in 2000 in Atlanta, Ga. For the past 20 years, they have been using massive email spamming and guerrilla marketing to distribute their free newspaper. *The Epoch Times* originally only published a Chinese edition which they distributed for free in order to put Chinese community newspapers out of business. They ran unprincipled campaigns harassing any



## Falun Gong has built an international anti-communist, anti-China propaganda machine with a major right wing US presence.

opposition to them from the Chinese community, imagining a day when they might force us to accept their dark ideology and to unite under their banner to violently oppose China. However, they have failed; they have been completely discredited in the mainstream Chinese-American community.

Therefore, what *The Epoch Times* has done for the past several years in the effort to support Trump, help the rise of QAnon, and destroy American democracy is nothing new to us: a case of the U.S. shooting themselves in the foot.

It would be quite naïve for anyone to believe that the all-out PsyOp disinformation campaign against China – including the fake websites, fake social network groups, fake online influencers, fake news, fake videos, vicious Internet hacking and even fake TV signals, massive email bot campaigns, an army of systematically organized online rumor campaigns, harassment and intimidation of individuals and groups who disagree with them – that this whole CIA textbook-type massive campaign could be organized by a small group of amateur Falun Gong volunteers.

One of the reasons to doubt this: the U.S. government had treated them as a legitimate media organization from their inception in 2000 during the Clinton Democratic administration. At that point their wild and deceptive exposes of China, their so-called "coverage" of China, were frequently highlighted by mainstream corporate media such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and CNN. They gained White House press access (especially during the Trump-era) while major Chinese media such as China Global Television Network (CGTN) were labeled as "foreign agents" and usually denied press access to the White House.

Most Americans began noticing the true nature of *The Epoch Times* propaganda in 2019 when it was putting a great effort into supporting Trump and the QAnon conspiracies. It is really stranger than fiction how *The Epoch Times* has become a pro-Trump propaganda machine in the age of COVID and insurrection.

However, it was not that Falun Gong/*The Epoch Times* had decided to form an alliance with the right-wing and Trump to achieve the overthrow of the Chinese government's political goals; instead it was that the right-wing had found that what they had created was useful for pushing their own cynical domestic agenda.

*The Epoch Times* model can be traced back to the early 1990s when Hong Kong was still a British colony awaiting return to China at 1997. The British and U.S. secretly funded Hong Kong businessman Jimmy Lai, helping him to found the anti-communist media empire Next Media and

its newspaper *Apple Daily*. The newspaper looks like the *NY Daily News*, a tabloid whose sensational anti-communist/anti-China misinformation is passed off as every day media coverage. *Apple Daily* is also organizing a smear campaign against left-wing pro-China activists in Hong Kong.

Multiple investigative reports exposed the covert financial and political ties between *Apple Daily*, Taiwan and the U.S. State Department that had been created for launching the Hong Kong color revolution. *Apple Daily* gets money and secretly pays bribes to local anti-communist politicians and organizations to act against Beijing and the local Hong Kong Special Administration Region (HKSAR) government. *Apple Daily* was the main covert financier and overt propaganda arm for the so-called Hong Kong Umbrella movements of 2014 and 2019.

Openly *The Epoch Times* and *Apple Daily* don't have any business ties, but many investigative reports have found that they work together closely.

Historically, the U.S. has backed similar far-right cult, anti-communist propaganda machines in the past. The most famous example was the 1980s *Washington Times*, founded by the Unification Church (The "Moonies"), a South Korean cult secretly funded by Japanese far-right organized crime to support right-wing Reagan Republicans in order to gain a political foothold inside the Beltway.

What makes *The Epoch Times* different from other traditional right-wing conservative media is their global propaganda capacity. They have been using members of anti-China forces in the Chinese community around the world as a stepping stone to quickly go global. With mysterious "high-up" technological support, they have adopted the tactics of going digital for outreach and organizing movements that carryout direct street actions.

They work tactically and creatively to explore different media and messaging strategies; they hire white news reporters to make their English-language edition look "mainstream" and "professional." In 2014 their staff reporters, photographers, and designers even won 16 awards at the annual New York Press Association Conference – although the names are similar, don't mistake this for the New York Press Club.

They seem to have unlimited money to spend on their dark, crazy anti-China propaganda campaigns. The annual budget of their media empire, which includes *The Epoch Times*, New Tang Dynasty Television (NTD), *The Beauty of Life* (BL), hundreds of Facebook and YouTube front groups, as well as Sun Yuan dance company, amounts to at least \$66 million

dollars per year.

Many people do not know *The Epoch Times* runs as a nonprofit organization; their main income comes from newspaper advertisement and subscriptions; their financial fortune has gone up and down over the years.

According to the IRS, *The Epoch Times*' 2016 financial record showed revenue of \$3.9 million; in 2017 the revenue was \$8.1 million – double what it had been the previous year – and it reported spending \$7.2 million on "printing newspapers and creating web and media programs." Most of its revenue comes from advertising and "web and media income," according to the group's annual

tax filings; individual donations and subscriptions to the paper make up less than 10 percent.

But in 2019 their revenue rose to \$15.5 million – it is likely their non-stop anti-Democrat pro-Trump news coverage had attracted many MAGA-supporters who bought subscriptions, enabling it to nearly quadruple its revenue during the first three years of the Trump administration, according to an AXIOS investigation.

New Tang Dynasty's 2017 revenue, according to IRS records, was \$18 million, a 150 percent increase over the year before. It spent \$16.2 million. In late 2019, Facebook banned BL from using fake accounts. By then, Facebook said, the group had spent close to \$9.5 million promoting itself, accruing 55 million followers worldwide.

The more glamorous Shen Yun in 2018 reported a profit of \$26 million and net assets of \$122 million.

These figures are just for their U.S. operations and doesn't include their several dozen global operations where the totals could run in the hundreds of millions every year.

In comparison to these budgets, the 2018 revenue of Pacifica Radio, the largest and most historically progressive radio network in the U.S. (where I'd worked as an unpaid-producer for 15 years), was around \$11.5 million.

Then who is funding Falun Gong and *The Epoch Times*' massive multi-million dollar operation in the U.S. and the world? No one knows exactly – they are extremely secretive – but many rumors about it are circulating around the community. One of the speculations by the Chinese media is that Taiwan's pro-independence faction is a big funder, since Hong Kong's Jimmy Lai and *Apple Daily* are financially connected to them.

Other than John Tang (the founder of the newspaper in 2000) who is chief executive of *The Epoch Times* and NTD, little else is known about the management of these organizations. Outside journalists are not granted access to the newsroom.

Some investigations found that Steve Bannon had some kind of relationship with *The Epoch Times*. In 2019, NTD co-produced and aired his docudrama, "Claws of the Red Dragon," loosely based on the Chinese telecom company Huawei.

In May 2020, the *Daily Beast* discovered a benefactor named Huayi Zhang on the IRS filing of Universal Communications Network, the nonprofit that operates NTD and part of the Epoch Times media empire. Zhang, who for several years in the 2000s chaired the network's board, was a principal at Renaissance Technologies, a mysterious hedge fund with many questionable ties, run by Robert Mercer. The link was suggestive, given that Bannon, a one time Mercer ally, has a connection to NTD.

**Full text online**

**Federal Judge Orders Video Surveillance in 5 CA Prisons to stop abuse of imprisoned men & women with disabilities**

by Celeste Fremon

<https://witnessla.com/federal-judge-orders-video-surveillance-body-cams-in-5-ca-prisons-to-stop-abuse-of-men-women-with-disabilities/>

On Thursday, March 11, Senior U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken handed down a blistering ruling that ordered the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to institute a series of changes with which the judge hopes to put a stop to what she describes as a pattern of systemic abuse of incarcerated people with disabilities at five of the state’s prisons.

The abuse and various related violations were documented in more than one hundred declarations by present and past residents of the prisons, along with other evidence that, according to Judge Wilken, suggests that the CDCR has been aware of these problems for years.

The five facilities named are California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC); California State Prison, Corcoran (COR); Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF); California Institute for Women (CIW); and Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP).

In her 71-page ruling, Wilken described a disturbing pattern of abuse of the five lock-ups’ residents who qualify for special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

These disabled residents “are vulnerable to abuse,” wrote Judge Wilken, “and less able than others to defend themselves in light of their disabilities.”

In the text of her ruling, the judge listed some of the incidents described in the declarations. In many cases the incident begins when a prison resident asks for some kind of accommodation that he or she needs, and how the request is refused. Then, in certain of the cases, some brand of physical abuse follows after the refusal.

The residents also report how they are discouraged from accessing the various prisons’ grievance processes in order to report the abuse they have experienced, or to document that they are being denied what they need to function adequately, given their disability.

**Bad Investigations**

A large part of the problem, according to the judge, has to do with the CDCR’s system of investigating staff misconduct which remains “deficient and ineffective.”

Thus, according to the ruling, if residents with disabilities do persist and try to file a grievance alleging abuse, violence, or neglect — or all three — the investigative system “cannot be relied upon to hold wardens and staff accountable.”

Judge Wilken’s assessment of the CDCR’s grievance system is strongly supported by a recent report issued by the California Office of the Inspector General, on February 16, 2021, which mirrors her conclusions.

In the February report, the OIG wrote that, despite the fact that the state had just spent nearly \$10 million a year to improve its handling of inmates’ allegations of staff misconduct, the CDCR’s investigative process “remains broken” and is “neither independent nor fair.”

As it happens, this is far from the first time the judge has taken a good hard look at the CDCR’s broken system when it comes to incarcerated men and women with disabilities.

In 1996, Wilken determined that the CDCR’s policies and procedures “with regard to disabled prisoners” were “inadequate and violative” of the ADA, and ordered the CDCR to develop a “remedial plan” to “fulfill its obligations to disabled prisoners under federal law.”

Yet, although, between 1996 and now, the judge has issued a series of further orders, very little appears to have changed. And the judge is not happy. “...the court has found,” she wrote in the ruling released last week, “that staff failed on numerous occasions to reasonably accommodate the disabilities of disabled inmates.”

With all of the above in mind, Judge Wilken has now ordered her own remedial prescription for the five prisons named in this newest ruling.



**Cameras and monitoring pepper spray**

The main change that Wilken has now ordered is the installation of surveillance cameras, which are to cover all areas of each of the five facilities to which disabled residents have access. The cameras must cover, at minimum, “all exercise yards, housing units, sally-ports, dining halls, program areas, and gyms.”

Further, all correctional officers at the same five prisons must begin using body-worn cameras, according to the new order, if they “have any interactions with disabled inmates.” As for the footage gathered by the cameras, if it in any way documents use of force “and other triggering events involving disabled inmates,” it must be retained “indefinitely.” Furthermore, that footage is to be “reviewed and considered as part of the investigation of any incident.”

Judge Wilken ordered other changes, such as a mandate for the CDCR to develop a system to monitor and control how much pepper spray is used on disabled inmates. She has also ordered a new electronic system to track incidents of misconduct.

In addition, the CDCR must reform the staff complaint and disciplinary process, and increase supervisory staffing. And just to make sure the above gets done, Judge Wilken has appointed an expert to oversee the CDCR’s implementation of the mandated reforms.

Interestingly, according to the attorneys at Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld, the firm that brought the lawsuit, Judge Wilken’s recent orders were built upon earlier orders that she issued in September 2020, after finding similar violations and at R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility (“RJD”) in San Diego. The Donovan order represents the first time that correctional officers have been required to wear body cameras inside a California prison.

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