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AND MORE!!!

Actions of the Month!

Stay safe! Please follow CDC guidelines and protect yourself and others by respecting the self-quarantine and practicing social distancing!

Support demands for “Just Recovery” from policymakers during this crisis.

What does “Just Recovery” refer to?
Learn more on our resources guide on pg.3!
Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

The Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center works to build a more peaceful and just world through citizen involvement. To this end, we work to eliminate nuclear weapons; reduce militarism; heal the causes of violence, such as racism and injustice. A community-based organization focusing on education and action, the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Andrew Kodama

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That Was Then, This is Now
By Bob Maxwell, Opinion and Philosophy

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed – indeed, revolutionized – our understanding of what is possible in the space of a few months. Remember when Medicare for all and the green new deal were ridiculed, even by Democrats, because of the “preposterous” amount of money they would cost? Remember the repeated demands, on the debate stage, by relatively moderate Democrats, that proponents of these programs (like Warren and Sanders) explain where this vast amount of money was going to come from?

Now we live in a world in which bi-partisan super-majorities, in both houses of Congress, pass a two trillion dollar economic rescue bill, only to have a growing chorus of prominent political voices insisting this is not nearly enough!

Where did these trillions of dollars come from? Apparently out of thin air. Remember when Bernie Sanders’ “Democratic Socialism” was denounced, even by some of his democratic opponents, because it implied a level of interference with private enterprise that a “counter-right” country, like the United States would never accept? Now we live in a world in which a Republican president uses a “Defense Production Act” he recently signed to order private companies to produce more ventilators and protective gear, like gloves and masks, and is denounced – not for telling private businesses what to do – but for not doing it nearly enough to meet the nation’s present needs!

Is America Venezuela yet?

Remember when former candidate, Andrew Yang, was widely ridiculed for proposing that every adult in the U.S be given a check for one thousand dollars every month? Now we live in a world where most of us are due a check for $1200, while Democrats are united in demanding that we all get checks for $2000 every month, for the duration.

Remember when the proliferating armed conflicts in the world made world peace seem impossibly remote? Now we live in a world where the president of France calls for armed conflicts around the world to cease for the duration of the pandemic – and combatants from around the world appear to actually pay attention!

Perhaps, when things return to “normal”, all the old shit will revive. But, even if it does, the genie is out of the bottle. Now we know just how possible it is for things to be otherwise.

To all Peace Center Members/Community,

We hope this message finds you well during this hectic time. So much has changed in just the past month, it can be hard to remain focused on what is important. We hope everyone is staying safe and we are extending our best wishes and thoughts to the millions of people across the planet affected by this pandemic. Despite not being able to hold in person events, we are still intent on remaining connected to you all and advancing the mission of the Center. We want to continue to educate, organize, and inspire others in our community to get involved. In this issue, we have a COVID-19 resource guide, which provides information on how to stay updated, informed, and safe throughout this crisis. Peace work does not stop in the face of a pandemic but instead it allows us to refocus and sharpen our vision. It allows us to take stock of what is important, check in our people, and begin building the world we want move into in the wake of this crisis. The Peace Center extends our well-wishes to you all. We are proud to be a part of this community and consider ourselves lucky to walk this path of peace and justice together with you all.

-E.D Andrew Kodama

The Peace Gazette is a project of the Communications Committee of MDPJC. The views expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily speak for all members of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center or its Board of Directors.
COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE

Though we are in a time of crisis, we have been greatly inspired by the networks of support that have emerged to support and provide direct resources to those most impacted by this pandemic.

If YOU or someone you know has been directly impacted and you need assistance finding resources, please do not hesitate to call our office and we can provide information on where to get started. We can be reached during the week between 9AM—5PM via telephone @ 925 933 7850.

State of California

- www.covid19.ca.gov: a comprehensive and consumer-friendly website for COVID-19 updates from the state of California. The site includes regular updates as well as a Frequently Asked Questions page for addressing specific circumstances or situations community members may be facing. They provide information on important matters regarding workers rights, unemployment insurance, healthcare, housing, as well as for small businesses and a number of other topics.

- www.32ndpta.org: is an official subsidiary organization, established by the California State PTA and affiliated with the National PTA. They serve all of Contra Costa County and their website has current, important information for students & families during this time.
  - One of the most helpful resources on this site is a list of school sites in the county that are offering free meals to students. Each district’s plan and requirements may differ so please check your districts website for more detailed information and updates.
  - “Acalanes Union High School District and Nutrition Services will be conducting walk-up distribution of daily prepared meals, free of charge for all children in the community. Pick-ups can be made M-F from 11-1PM at Las Lomas HS and between 10:30 and 12:30 at Campolindo HS”

Mutual Aid Resources:


- Contra Costa County Mutual Aid: A volunteer community helping to support the vulnerable members of our community through the pandemic. This group is tailored to help coordinate mutual aid for elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions (errands, emotional support).
  To make an aid request, visit: www.tinyurl.com/ccmutualaid

If you are interested in donating to a fund or looking for ways to support people during the pandemic, please visit: www.nfg.org/covid-19-funds

We will also be posting regular resource updates to our website, www.ourpeacecenter.org
Interview with Concord Communities Alliance

At the beginning of May, the Peace Center had the honor of holding an interview with two organizers, Ady Olvera and Kenji Yamada, from Concord Communities Alliance (CCA). CCA is a volunteer-run, grassroots group that works with the community to advocate for greater affordability, livability, sustainability, and resident empowerment for the most vulnerable groups in Concord. Recently, they have been focusing their efforts on supporting those who have been most impacted by COVID-19 – in particular their immigrant and houseless communities.

In our conversation, we touched on the roots of the group, details of recent efforts, and ways the public can join to support them! The following is an excerpt from our conversation. To view the interview in full, please visit our website (www.ourpeacecenter.org)
For more information on CCA—please visit: www.concordcommunitiesalliance.org

Peace Center (PC): How did Concord Communities Alliance come together?

KENJI:
The group grew out of my campaign for city council which came from the need to advance the priority and the policies of the city of Concord for vulnerable people. There is a lot that phrase means but there were a lot of us who felt the city was not putting adequate priority on the needs of the most vulnerable residents – our neighbors and some of us ourselves in various ways. For that reason, we wanted to get as politically organized and efficient and focused as we could be in our efforts to influence policy. Part of that was for me to run for city council and while I did not win – we moved on to continue advocating for the same issues of which my candidacy was only just a part, so we formed this organization, CCA.

The plural in that name, communities, is deliberate because the idea of it is that we want to connect many groups of people in the city of Concord who share these values of making sure that those who are most vulnerable are taken into account most highly and their needs are given the greatest consideration by our city government.

PC: Can you walk me through your strategy as a group?

ADY:
I would think that our approach is very similar to other movements that are out there. It is people power, it’s engaging people's voices in a way where everybody has something to say and we all listen and sometimes these ideas get mushed together and we take actions collectively, and sometimes things move so fast and some people contribute more than others, and that’s okay. Often we split up roles. Kenji is so good at working down complex policies so we can address them properly. Something that sounds so basic to us, might actually be more complex from a city council perspective because the bureaucracy is so horrible. We really try to work together to help each other out and work to our skills and strengths while building new ones.
PC: What do you think is the greatest need in the city of Concord?

ADY:

In terms of biggest needs right now, I would say there are two. One is our immigrant community that are not getting stimulus checks or don’t qualify for certain services like unemployment. They are our most vulnerable community and a big portion of them are not working right now due to the stay at home orders. They are tremendously impacted right now and luckily we have organizations like Monument Impact and the Monument Crisis Center that are providing them with the resources they need, but that does not mean everyone can get to that or that they have enough for everybody. We need to do a lot to make sure their needs are met.

Our other priority is our unhoused population. Our unhoused population doesn’t have anywhere to isolate. It can be hard to get food to them as well as get them resources like hand-washing stations. One reason is because sometimes the city doesn’t have the resources. Would they like to? Yes. Are they allocating some of their resources to something they could cut a little bit to address this issue a little better? I think they can. I recognize that [the pandemic] has impacted our government’s ability to function as well as it needs to, which is only going to make it harder for community groups like us to mobilize them to do what we need them to do.

PC: How can people in the community who maybe are just now hearing about you best support your work?

KENJI:

So, for our Concord focused things one call to action we often put out is to communicate with city council and that has the most weight when it comes from Concord residents. It doesn’t have to be Concord residents of course you know what one city does in this region affects others. That’s a big one. If people have Facebook if they follow our Facebook page we put out a lot of calls to action there. I think that’s the main thing for people that want to help from afar.

ADY:

I think there are different ways to help. One is definitely social media. We always need people to share the work that we’re doing because that’s going to give us some visibility and whether it’s impacting someone in the moment it’s like “Oh I learned about that city that was doing it. They had successes and now that knowledge exists out there.” Coverage like this interview will be able to exist out there as a resource for others in the future.

The other thing is if people have the ability to donate! Right now we are focused on helping our on houseless neighbors. We want to get them bottles of water, masks, bottles of hand sanitizer, because they don’t have hand washing stations. We want them to have trash cans where they can put things and have it safely removed. There are also many small actions that can be extremely impactful, especially if you don’t have a lot of time to commit.

We can match people to skills! We need people to write press releases on the fly. We need someone to share things on social media and with others. We can do it, but we’re also doing so much. It helps if someone has two hours and they can knock out a press release in that week and that’s all they did. I mean that’s huge for us. Sometimes it’s just to design an image or get it prepped for social media to use. Everything helps! (continued on pg. 8)
PC: What advice would you have for someone wanting to get involved in this kind of work, either with your group or in their own community?

KENJI:
Influencing your city government is a lot easier when you’re a resident in that city and you know it sounds pretty obvious when you say it but I think a lot of people who have values that they feel their city government is not adequately prioritizing don’t realize how much strength their voice has saying that you know “I’m a Lafayette resident” to Lafayette city council. Especially if you can get five other Lafayette residents to come make comments to your city council saying “We’re residents here”. If you want to advance the values of and prioritize the needs of vulnerable people—look first to the government of your own city. That’s where your voice can carry the most weight.

ADY:
What people also need when going into this work is a lot of compassion, a lot of time, and a lot of patience when working with other people. People from different backgrounds will want to support your work and you have to find a productive way to work with everybody and learn to uplift everyone’s voice. That’s not easy to do and it can’t be self serving. This really has to come from a place of wanting to uplift other people and I think that’s where our government fails. We don’t have enough people like Kenji, who are pretty selfless in this work. A lot of us should acknowledge that we come from positions of privilege and even as people of color we have some privilege we can use to uplift others.

We take a lot of pride that we’re just community residents with some expertise here and there that have come together and we feel like our voices are being heard. People know where we come from and what our values are. We won’t barter, we stay firm and we will bridge other people to back us up. We won’t shy away from intimidation and from people that tell us no, we can’t do it, it can’t be done. There’s always a way, we just might have to wait a little bit longer and keep pushing. We’re very lucky to have that kind of strong group and I encourage other groups out there that want to build a Concord’s Community Alliance look at the California Progress Alliance and the Richmond Progressive Alliance, two groups that we modeled ourselves after that are doing amazing things with their communities. We’re just another group that have the same kinds of values and we encourage people to form their group the way they want. We’re happy to be a resource to tell you our struggles building it and how it can be done with very little money and sometimes no money at all. Organizing just needs a lot of passion, patience and maybe a few cloned Kenji’s.

Kenji:
A great thing about being city focused is that it allows you to really tailor your methods and I guess your methods to the culture, your community, what’s appropriate. Our fundamental values about what humanity means, how we as a society should treat people are the same as many of the other groups out there doing great work. But our methods differ to some extent as appropriate for our community in Concord and the same could be true of someone starting a group like this in Lafayette or Moraga or Danville or Clayton or wherever. That’s the great thing like Ady said we really appreciate you giving us a voice here because you’re helping us connect with others where we can share what we’ve learned in all directions and take what’s appropriate for our community to move forward the values that are the same between us.

To see the full interview, please visit: www.ourpeacecenter.org
The Peace Center Research Group has worked diligently for the past year compiling foreign policy statements, along with direct sources, made by prospective Democratic candidates in our Foreign Policy Fact Sheets. We identified a set of 13 key foreign policy issues to focus on. These categories as well as how we define them can be viewed on the homepage for our fact sheets, located on the Peace Center's website.

While we began covering over 10 Democratic candidates, we have recently narrowed our scope to focus on Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Our research team has also compiled a new campaign guide that references our fact sheets, showing the foreign policy stances of each candidate, along with what we have identified as the “progressive agenda”.

We have displayed a section of this guide on the opposite page. The full guide can be viewed at a larger size on our homepage.

This election coverage is meant to encourage deeper discussion, critical analysis, and debate on these pressing issues! We hope you find these guides to be helpful! We warmly welcome any feedback on making these guides the best they can be. If you would like to send in comments or suggestions, please email our director:

andrew@ourpeacecenter.org
PEACE CENTER GUIDE: CAMPAIGN 2020
For details, see Candidate Foreign Policy Fact Sheets @ ourpeacecenter.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Trump</th>
<th>Biden</th>
<th>Progressive Agenda</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| U.S. Powers    | * Claims expansive executive authority and disparages congressional oversight  
                 * Rejests international treaties and multilateral agreements as limit to U.S. sovereignty  
                 * Pressures allies to increase their military budgets and contributions to NATO  
                 * Expands use of special forces and military drones  
                 * Says waterboarding is effective  
                 * Supports maintaining military prison at Guantanamo Bay | * Asserts that U.S. military should police shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf  
                 * Contends U.S. has moral duty to respond to genocide or use of chemical weapons  
                 * Threatens to use force to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon  
                 * As VP, supported deployment of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria  
                 * As senator, voted to authorize war in Iraq and chaired hearings that facilitated the invasion | * Strictly follow U.S. Constitution requiring congressional approval before military action  
                 * Abide by international law prohibiting interference in other countries internal affairs |
| Nuclear Weapons| * Withdrew from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty  
                 * Initiated U.S. Space Force which threatens to violate Outer Space Treaty  
                 * Issued 2018 Nuclear Posture Review that announced plans for new weapons; expressed disinterest in renewing New START treaty | * Opposes development of new, low-yield nuclear weapons  
                 * Advocates a global ban on explosive nuclear testing  
                 * Supports a “no-first-use” policy  
                 * Advocates renewing New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty  
                 * Supports deployment of a national missile defense system | * Negotiate to eliminate launch-on-warning policy of U.S. and Russia  
                 * Implement Non-Proliferation Treaty toward complete nuclear disarmament |
| Military Budget | * Increased military spending every year of his presidency to total $ 989 billion in 2021  
                 * Issued 2018 National Defense Strategy emphasizing competition with Russia and China | * Commits to U.S. global military superiority  
                 * Supports investing in advanced technologies, including military drones, artificial intelligence, and cyberspace weapons  
                 * Conduct national referendum on shifting funds to health and environmental security needs |
There are some things you can do to protect yourself, family and friends from getting sick.

1. **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN**
   - Use soap and water
   - Wash for at least 20 seconds. If it helps, sing the ABC's while you do it—that's about 20 seconds.
   - Wash after using the bathroom or being in public spaces (like the bus or playground).
   - Try to get into all the nooks and crannies!

2. **SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOWS**
   - Coronavirus is believed to spread through little droplets of fluid from your lungs.
   - If you sneeze into your elbows, you can prevent germs from going into the air and onto your hands.

3. **AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE**
   - Don't pick your nose, don't touch your mouth, don't rub your eyes.
   - These are the places where germs enter our bodies.
   - GEEZ, you can still do it, just use a tissue, then throw it away.

Just because someone looks different or talks differently doesn't mean that they are at a higher risk of getting the Coronavirus or spreading it, AND DON'T FORGET!

There are a lot of helpers out there who are working to protect you. It is NOT your job to worry.

But seriously, though... PLEASE wash your hands!!!

NPR has put out this excellent comic aimed at educating children about COVID-19! The comic was illustrated by artist, Malaka Gharib and is based on a recent series of interviews journalist Cory Turner conducted with health professionals from hospitals across the country.

To see the full comic, please visit: www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453
Hello wonderful community! We would like to offer you the opportunity to help us honor Contra Costa middle and high school peacemakers through our 22th Annual Art and Writing Contest & Youth Activist Grant Awards. Our Art and Writing contest was initiated 22 years ago by Dennis Thomas, a former Board member, who passed away in 2012. Just last year, we added our Youth Activist Grant Awards, created to honor local students who have inspired us with their dedication to peace work.

This year, we have had to modify the contest in several ways. Students are submitting their work online and winners will be displayed on our website. And of course, we unfortunately will not be able to have our usual Awards Dinner, which is always so inspiring. We are still offering cash prizes, but we have had to reduce the number of cash awards. We have also had less entries, since schools have not been in session. Even so, we have received a number of thoughtful and creative entries.

This year, we are inviting community members to help support the contest by donating funds to sponsor one of the awards listed on the chart. Award sponsors will be invited to name the award in commemoration of someone they love. We will also include a short bio of the honoree on our website when we announce our winners.

If you are interested in sponsoring an award, please call our office (925) 933 7850 or email, andrew@ourpeacecenter.org. There will also be a form made available on our website for easy access.

Thank you for helping honor our next generation of peacemakers as well as remember those who struggled for peace and justice!

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**High School & Middle School Grand Prize Winners**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Art</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
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**High School First Prize Winners**

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<tr>
<td>Visual Art</td>
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<td>Creative Writing</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
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**Middle School First Prize Winners**

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<td>Creative Writing</td>
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**Youth Activist Award**

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<tr>
<td>One Winner</td>
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We hope everyone is staying safe out there! We are extending our best wishes and thoughts to the millions of people across the planet affected by this pandemic. While we are not able to have in-person events at the Center during this time, we are working to find effective ways to remain connected with you all.

Our goal is to replace our monthly forum series with a virtual webinar series, featuring interviews, workshops, and discussions with peace and justice activists. If you’ve been coming to our events for a long time now, we hope you continue to join us as we explore new ways of doing our work! If you are NEW or have not been able to attend our events due to distance, this is a great time to get involved virtually!

In the meantime, we will continue to share other webinars and online events happening in the world of peace & justice with you all via our website & email updates. If you would like to be added to our weekly calendar email blast, please email us! andrew@ourpeacecenter.org

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Sign up for weekly online Activist Alert: www.ourpeacecenter.org

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