IN THIS ISSUE

Director’s Statement (pg. 2)
Art & Writing Contest 2020 Winners Announcement (pg. 4–15)
China / U.S Competition (pg. 16-17)
Maxwell’s Musings (pg. 18)
AND MORE!

UPCOMING WEBINAR!

Thursday, July 9th 6:30PM-8:00PM

“Addressing Climate Anxiety”
Professor Sarah Ray,
Department Chair of Environmental Studies at Humboldt State University

Details + registration can be found on pg. 19
Statement of Solidarity

The Peace Center stands in solidarity with all those fighting racial injustice and oppression. We stand in support with those who are standing up and letting their voice be heard. We've been inspired by countless stories of incredible leadership and peaceful demonstrations that have popped up in big and small cities alike across America.

There are a number of grassroots demonstrations that have taken place in the Bay Area over the past weeks—many of them planned with mere days or hours of advance notice. A number of them have been peaceful, powerful, and inspiring. Others, have unfortunately resulted in violence from both sides. If you choose to attend a protest, we encourage you to take as many precautions as possible. We are still in a global pandemic and the risks of getting COVID-19 are shown to rise dramatically with close exposure. If you live with or care for those who are at high-risk, re-consider your exposure to large groups.

The Peace Center has a deep history of direct action - starting with our beginnings marching against the wars in Indochina. Since then, Peace Center members have held a strong local presence at peaceful protests, known for their creative signs and positive spirits.

We must also remember that activism does not look just one way. While protesting is very visible, there are a myriad of necessary and powerful actions that can be taken from home.

This graphic on the opposite page is a part of a larger piece written by Deepa Iyer and the Building Movement Project as a way to illustrate the number of necessary roles in peace work that are often hidden or overlooked. It comes with a questionnaire and helps you better understand each grouping and what resonates with you.

Through doing this work, I am always amazed at the hidden skills, talents and experiences of those I regularly meet. We must remember that we all have something to contribute to the movement of peace work—it is just a matter of tapping into your own strengths and passions. We can all offer something!

Activism includes more than just being on the front lines. If you’re interested in learning more and getting involved with our work, please don’t hesitate to email:

In support,
Andrew Kodama, E.D.
The Roles

**Weavers:** I see the through-lines of connectivity between people, places, organizations, ideas, and movements.

**Experimenters:** I innovate, pioneer, and invent. I take risks and course-correct as needed.

**Frontline Responders:** I address community crises by marshaling and organizing resources, networks, and messages.

**Visionaries:** I imagine and generate our boldest possibilities, hopes and dreams, and remind us of our direction.

**Builders:** I develop, organize, and implement ideas, practices, people, and resources in service of a collective vision.

**Caregivers:** I nurture and nourish the people around me by creating and sustaining a community of care, joy, and connection.

**Disruptors:** I take uncomfortable and risky actions to shake up the status quo, to raise awareness, and to build power.

**Healers:** I recognize and tend to the generational and current traumas caused by oppressive systems, institutions, policies, and practices.

**Storytellers:** I craft and share our community stories, cultures, experiences, histories, and possibilities through art, music, media, and movement.

**Guides:** I teach, counsel, and advise, using my gifts of well-earned discernment and wisdom.
Thank you for supporting another incredible year of our annual art and writing challenge for students! This program was conceived by the late PJC board member, Dennis Thomas, with the goal of developing and promoting peace in the community through education, community participation, and activities that call for using conflict resolution and mediation. Now in its 22nd year, the challenge continues to provide middle and high school students with an opportunity to respond to timely themes, with the hopes of stimulating important dialogues in their classrooms and at home. Our goal is to encourage creative expression in our community and give young people the space to speak on the social issues most impacting their lives.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Peace Center closed its office at the end of March and postponed all scheduled events. These included our Student Climate Justice Summit, Friends of Scott & Taun Hall Community Meeting, as well as our Art & Writing Challenge Awards Dinner—where we celebrate the student winners from the years’ contest. We made this decision out of concern for the health and well-being of our community and in keeping with city, county, and state regulations regarding large gatherings. We are disappointed to not be able to host this event but will be sharing the winning entries and honorable mentions on our website. We hope to one day exhibit the winning pieces at the Peace Center for the community to enjoy. For now, please go to our "Winning Art and Writing Challenge Entries" section at (ourpeacecenter.org) to view the art and read the writings from this and past years.

In the past year, the Peace Center has been proud to see momentum build in the climate justice movement, led by student activists. These students, among many other inspiring activists and grassroots organizations, advocate that climate justice must be addressed using an intersectional approach, connecting the health of our planet with various forms of systemic marginalization that disproportionately affect low-income folks of color, immigrants, and indigenous communities.

For this year’s prompt—we took inspiration from these activists and asked students to reflect on their own relationship to the planet and community. In thinking about the climate movement, what connections can be made to other social justice issues? In light of COVID-19, we added an additional component to the prompt, giving students an opportunity to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on their lives. Many discussions we’ve had with students have come back to this important question:

*How do we work to build a transformative world to return to once we’ve ‘returned to normal’?*

In honor of our 50th Year Anniversary in 2019, the Peace Center created its first annual *Youth Activist Grant Award*, to accompany the Art and Writing Challenge. We are excited to bring this grant back for this year.

We are consistently inspired by the tireless dedication of young people in our community fighting for the betterment of all and working to support our most marginalized groups. Every single day, young people are recognizing the power and potential they have for being true catalysts for positive change and we want to recognize those leading the charge.

The community was invited to nominate a youth organization, an individual, or a group of young people, grades 6-12, that showed exemplary leadership and dedication for social justice, organizing, and human rights. This year, two winners were selected—*Mia Portner*, a senior at Las Lomas High School, and seventh grader from Mno Grant School, *Jacklyn Raya*.
We would like to extend a huge thank you to every student, teacher, and community member who participated in and helped to support our contest this year. This annual challenge for students is one of the highlights of our programming and we are consistently inspired by the submissions we get from local students. Below is the list of selected winners for the 2020 Art & Writing Challenge. Their winning entries can be found on the following pages as well as on our website.

This year we also gave community members the opportunity to support the contest by sponsoring one of the award categories. Sponsors were invited to commemorate an award in the name of someone they love. For more detailed information and a full re-cap of the contest, please visit us online: www.ourpeacecenter.org

**MIDDLE SCHOOL VISUAL ART**
First Prize Award: Indie Lee

**MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING:**
*Dr. Hisham Ahmed First Prize Award:*
Abigail Hui

**HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY**
*Leanne Schlegel First Prize Award:*
Nihal Nadipally

**HIGH SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING**
*Ean Reynolds First Prize Award:*
Emily Hora

**HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ART**
*Persephone Reynolds First Prize Award:*
Cindy Zhou

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GRAND PRIZE WINNER—VISUAL ART**
Gabriella Bertot
“Our Planet”
8th Grade—Orinda Intermediate School

**HIGH SCHOOL GRAND PRIZE WINNER—ESSAY**
Gayathri Viswanath—
"Climate Change and Capitalism"
9th grade—Dougherty Valley HS
Jacklyn Raya  
*6th Grade, Mno Grant School*

This past year, Jacklyn proved herself to be a natural leader at her school around the climate movement. Her 6th grade teacher at Mno Grant School, Ms. Barnes noted, “When Mno Grant sixth graders decided to host a Virtual School Earth Week, just a couple weeks after our school’s Spring Break, Jacklyn showed dedication and leadership that inspired other students to follow in her footsteps. She read the book, 50 ways to Save the Bees, and was inspired to figure out how each of us from home could do our part to protect native pollinators. She suggested we have a Save The Bees Day which was our school’s first Virtual Earth Day of the week.”

Jacklyn was one of the students voted by her peers as a leader in learning about environmental topics. Her creativity, drive, and passion for climate justice inspired not only her classmates but teachers, families, and community members. We’re excited to keep up with Jacklyn’s work and see where the future takes her.

Mia Portner  
*Grade 12, Las Lomas High School*

As a senior at Las Lomas last year, Mia was responsible for organizing a fundraiser called “Art for Australia.” She encouraged visual art students to create work that would be sold at a silent auction to support the healing of Australian wildlife and ecosystems after the devastating fires. She called for student performers—musicians, singers, actors, poets—to perform the night of the event. As a result, Mia and her club “Extinction Rebellion” raised over $1500!

Mia is known as one of the leading activists for environmental change at Las Lomas, participating in protest marches and organizing student walkouts.” Mia is also heavily involved in equity work on campus, encouraging education and dialogues around feminism. We are thankful for students like Mia who go above and beyond to put intention and care into the community.
MIDDLE SCHOOL GRAND PRIZE WINNER:
“Our Planet” by Gabriella Bertot
8th Grade—Orinda Intermediate School
Four hundred and eighty-three. This is the amount of people who were killed in Kerala in 2018, when my native country experienced the worst floods it had ever seen in the last one century. The other 5.4 million people who survived lost their homes, roads, railways, bridges, power supplies, crops, livestock, and more. Over 1.4 million were displaced from their homes and stuck in refugee camps. My uncle’s home was flooded by the Pampa River, stuck on the top-most floor of his house for three days with a few biscuits for food. His newly bought car was destroyed, and the entire lower portion of his house was destroyed. Nobody could immediately save them because of the limited supply of helicopters, and because they weren’t in the “dangerous category” of citizens that needed immediate help, which included anyone who was above eighty years old. My great-uncle, only in his sixties, wasn’t a priority, and when he was finally rescued, he had to spend over a month in a refugee camp.

Now the reason for such a deadly calamity? “No one could have predicted this amount of rain! It was the mismanagement of dam reservoirs! It was because of the careless mining and construction in the Western Ghats! It’s because Kerala has forty-four rivers flowing through it!” These are the answers our government gave us, and while they were indeed factors, they overlooked the real reason behind a flood that could have been avoided if humans simply paid attention to their planet. India’s summer monsoon has always been a factor in floods, but the rapid increase in flood risks since the 1950’s is due to one thing only: global warming. Warmer temperatures are speeding up glacier melting in the Himalayan Mountains, thus increasing the output of the Ganga and Brahmaputra Rivers, which flow throughout the country. But why did I have to research this? Why have world governments been silent about climate change for the last sixty years?

Throughout science classes in high school, we’re taught the adverse effects of greenhouse gases, the dangerous quantity of carbon emissions, and our withering ozone layer. So how can it be explained that no serious steps have been taken to reverse the adverse effects of climate change, despite that 97% of scientists around the globe argue that climate change is in fact a threat to humanity? One simple word: capitalism. Different sectors of capitalism have lobbies that impose their wills on politicians in every country, perfectly content with exploiting millions while destroying the environment, specifically auto-manufacturers and oil companies. It’s the interest of these enormous enterprises that oil continues to be the world’s primary fuel source.

Until recently I always considered climate change as an environmentalist-only issue, a separate problem only affecting future generations that would have to deal with the turmoil. This mentality changed when I realized that global warming is caused by the people who are least likely to face its consequences. Capitalist policies and monopolies allow companies to resort to fossil fuels since it is cheap and requires no innovation so that companies can save money.
Environmentalist policies are the ones that restrict carbon emissions and production of fossil fuels, but the capitalistic society that we live in has created a mindset of greed, where short term wealth is preferable to long term certainty of stable future conditions. By prioritizing their own wealth, they victimize the poorest of the poor. People with limited financial resources cannot adapt quickly to natural disasters, and globally, it is mostly women and children who are most vulnerable.

In third world countries, a majority of women work in agriculture, so when climate change destroys crops with droughts and famine, they lose their entire livelihood. Meanwhile, those of us privileged enough to live in America are less prone to face the life-wrecking effects of natural disasters, unlike developing countries like Haiti and Nepal, whose governments don’t have the funds or means to rebuild their nation. When we only think of climate change as an environmental issue, it’s easier to for companies to convince themselves that they aren’t doing any additional harm by adding a couple more tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, but when we correlate climate change to pressing social issues of poverty, starvation, displacement, uprooting, and overall loss of their means of survival, then we can finally have a chance at convincing lobbyists to lay out sensible environmental reform.

Since I was a little girl, my favorite trips were to Yosemite National Park. My lifelong dream is to visit every national park in America, to see how beautiful our earth truly is before it all goes away. Nature is the biggest part of my life. Whenever I need to calm myself down, I walk outside and observe the life around me. Whenever it rains, I stay outdoors for hours feeling the rain on my skin; the relief is almost instant. Nature is what enables us to be humble human beings. Only when you connect with the world around you do you realize that we as humans have no right to destroy the homes of millions of animals and plants for the sake of harvesting oil.

Yet I know change is possible. Ever since the pandemic has forced companies to shut down with stay-at-home orders enforced, we’ve seen immediate changes in the environment. The canals in Venice are clear for the first time in decades. Swans and dolphins are returning to the city, and the fish are finally visible. Carbon emissions have been cut drastically across the board. While the situation in which the world was forced to isolate is far from ideal, it only gives us more proof that change is possible if companies and countries simply take the initiative to give back to the earth.

My idea of a perfect world is one where we can successfully coexist with the life around us. I do not want to live in a world where older generations feel no remorse for their mistakes that have caused issues amongst younger generations. I don’t want to live in a world where the weight of every mistake that humanity has made concerning climate change is placed upon our shoulders, as if we’re equipped to deal with something so severe.

My vision of a just and healthy world is one where a happy, fulfilled life on this planet is certain for everyone, not the current mindset of exploiting individuals for profit. Now I understand that this is no longer simply a distant hope of my generation. As citizens living in a country as prosperous as America, it’s time for us to all come together and hold corporations accountable for their wrongdoings against the environment. The future is in our hands now, and it’s our duty to give back to our planet for everything our earth has done for us.
We all share this planet together. We breathe the same air and drink the same water. As such, we are all responsible for the well being of this planet and everything that lives on it. Today, many corporations and people in high-powered positions do not prioritize this, opting instead to maximize their own bank accounts. They take away the planet’s resources and displace countless creatures, humans and animals alike, as they seek to expand their own power and profit. They don’t care that we do not own this land but borrow it from future generations. I believe, in a perfect utopia, the maximization of profit would also result in the protection of the environment.

Some years past, I volunteered at multiple community gardens. The work was hard, but I was always congratulated with a sense of peace and serenity. As I watered tomatoes and planted potatoes, I was surrounded by ladybugs and butterflies. Their beauty and the closeness to so many life-giving plants made me feel a sense of oneness with nature. Knowing that I was volunteering in a local garden also made me feel part of the community, as we looked out for each other and made sure that each family has access to fresh vegetables and fruit, despite their finances. The work I put into helping the plants grow would be given to a person who was in need. I was joyful and thought that the world would always be this way: people giving to other people in need, helping those who had fallen down.

Now I have seen how corporations exploit land, just as they exploit people. They take and take until there is nothing left, using the money to line their own pockets. It creates an inequality and an imbalance between not only the rich and the poor but between humankind and nature. Humankind is trying to fight nature and subdue it, but that isn’t the course we must take. It is a force greater than we can ever imagine, and we need to learn to live together equally.

The new laws in China and Vietnam show that if we work together, we can accomplish something greater. In fact, some people have already begun acting out. We can’t simply stop factories and deforestation, because the economy would collapse. What we can do is create new technology that maximizes both profit and preservation of the Earth. For example, renewable energy from solar panels and windmills both make money and create energy, while stopping the use of harmful fossil fuels. We don’t need to do something as enormous as starting a renewable energy company, though. One of the biggest things we can do is simply to raise awareness of the true dangers that our planet is in. I hope that after you read this, you are inspired to take part in our connected planet.

[please view the full essay on our website: ourpeacecenter.org]
Middle School Visual Art
First Prize Winner: Indie Lee
8th Grade—Orinda Intermediate School

Middle School Visual Art
Honorable Mentions

Things to Do to Fill Your Soul
By Tara Tivakul
8th Grade—Valley View Middle School

Things to Do to Fill Your Soul
By Shaianne Sampaio
7th Grade—Martinez Junior High School
How do we tell
  Our children
Our nephews and nieces
How do we tell them
That we are the reason why
Why the planet is how it is
  The oceans are empty
  The plains are bare
The forests are no longer
But our pockets are full of green
How do we tell them
That we are the reason
They see empty fields
  They see no yields
  They see empty nets
  They see barren nests
This is our world
It soon will become theirs
How can we be so quick to
  Hurt
  Harm
  Destroy
How do we tell them?
  This is the future
  Now is the time
  We must change
At this present we are gifting our planet a break
  Free of people walking in parks
Fewer cars on the freeway going to work
  This break should be everlasting
Triggered by a catastrophic event
This break could prevent disaster
  Disaster of nature devastated
This is what we will tell our children
When we saw the change
  We made the shift
This is what we tell our children
High School Visual Art
First Prize Winner: Cindy Zhou
10th Grade—Dougherty Valley High School
“Serenity”
My connection to this planet is ordinary but complicated in the same way. We all have some connection to this planet. On one side, some non-environmentalists merely interact with Earth and do not believe in global warming. On the other side, some environmentalists organize rallies and protests to protect Earth. My connection falls somewhere in between. I strongly believe in the fact that it is our duty as inhabitants to protect our home, but the movement for “green earth” should not ask to rally and protest. A minor individual step towards the ultimate goal is enough to ensure a healthy future for generations to come.

From where I live, in San Ramon, California, there is no visible, major effect from climate change. Plants grow, humans breathe, and life seems to go on without an end. However, for the millions who do not have a chance to act or react, they get the real deal. An unemployed person in a developing country is likely to be offered one or two jobs by their local government. These jobs are usually not environment-friendly, but this person has no choice to join because they need to support their family. This choice, the only realistic one, comes back to bite them. Rising temperatures lead to drought and famine, leaving his or her family with minimal food. Higher sea levels could lead to a flood that decimates a poor village. I once heard Lebron James say, “Someone picked me up along the way. Now it is my job to pick someone up, someone who comes from a background of no choice and opportunity.” Everyone must be educated and have an opportunity to help combat global warming. If this social issue is solved, climate justice will be easier to solve.

When addressing climate and social justice, it must be taken into consideration that the world cannot be perfect. There are ways, however, to develop our world to be just and healthy. The list of tasks needed to achieve this is lengthy, but they can be summarized in broad terms. The public must be educated about global warming. Many people do not know how to help if they cannot understand how it works. People of all races, genders, and backgrounds must be held accountable for their actions. This works only if everyone gets an equal chance. Progress in technology must follow certain guidelines and take careful steps to not damage the quality of our precious resources. Local, state and national governments have to relocate millions of dollars of spending to fund new projects that are environmentally friendly. Businesses and factories must find efficient and eco-friendly to maintain their supply. The world does not need an automatic switch to renewable resources and recyclable water. Small steps can be sufficient enough to get our planet going in the right direction. The future effects of these changes have been visible in the last few months due to unintended behavioral changes.

[please view the full essay on our website: ourpeacecenter.org]
High School Visual Art Honorable Mentions

“The Greatest Form of Flattery”
By Shamy Etheart
12th Grade—Freedom High School

“Protection”
By: Kristina Strazhnikov
10th Grade—Northgate High School
The recent China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai—held just months before the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily slashed production—attracted little attention in the Western press. But the event served as a reminder that China has surpassed the United States as an economic and trading powerhouse. The CIIE also showed that China’s economic power stands on four mighty pillars: gross domestic product adjusted for purchasing power parity, total exports, total imports, and internal retail market.

1. China has the world’s largest GDP adjusted for purchasing power parity

Conventional figures for gross domestic product (GDP) ranks China as the second-largest economy, about 66% of the United States GDP. But in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP)—a metric used for comparing national data by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and even the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, China’s economy is number one in the world.

The PPP calculation corrects the “nominal GDP,” a figure calculated by converting economic data from a country’s native currency to U.S. dollars at the present exchange rate. By contrast, the PPP ratio used by IMF, the World Bank and the CIA’s World Factbook is based on a “basket” of goods and services that provides a measure of actual purchasing ability in a given country. Using the PPP metric, China’s GDP surpassed that of the United States in November 2014.

According to the most recent IMF data, China’s current PPP-adjusted GDP in 2018 was $27.3 trillion, compared to $21.4 trillion in the United States. The data did not include production in the Chinese territories of Hong Kong, with its own PPP-adjusted GDP of $0.491 trillion, or Macau, with a GDP of an additional $0.078 trillion. Economic activity generated in those cities would bring China’s PPP—adjusted GDP to $27.9 trillion.

2. China is the world’s number one exporter

The second pillar underlying China’s economic growth is its well-known status as the world’s largest exporter. According to the most recent data, provided by the United Nations for 2018, China exported $2.5 trillion in goods compared to U.S. exports of $1.7 trillion. If Hong Kong’s export volume of $0.6 trillion were added to the UN figures, China’s exports would total $3.1 trillion.

These numbers, however, do not include the export of services, which provides a much larger addition to the U.S. total than to China’s. In 2018, the U.S. was by far the world’s largest exporter of services, at $0.83 trillion.
China, ranked fifth at $0.23 trillion, lagged behind the U.S., the United Kingdom, Germany, and France. This disparity appears to be increasing: From 2014 to 2018, China’s service exports grew by 6%, compared to growth by 11% in the U.S.

Nevertheless, China ranks number one in exports of goods and services combined, at $2.7 trillion compared to the U.S. total of $2.5 trillion. And China’s export growth has proved remarkably resilient. According to the Financial Times, 48% of China’s exports go to countries outside the developed nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This global trade lessens the influence of the U.S. and its European allies, and provides China with significant political links to the developing world. In addition, recent U.S. restrictions on memory chips and other electronic commodities are apparently driving China to become more self-sufficient—and thereby a competitor with the U.S. and other developed countries on world markets.

3. China is the number two importer, with the second largest retail market and the largest e-retail market

The China International Import Expo brought to the world’s attention the nation’s rapid ascent as an importer as well as an exporter. For 2018, China’s import volume of goods was $2.1 trillion, compared to $2.6 trillion for the U.S. Import of services stood at $0.5 trillion for China, and $0.6 trillion for the U.S. The combined figures were $2.6 trillion in China, and $3.2 trillion in the U.S.

China’s growth rate of imports, however, is nearly twice the growth rate of its exports. If this trend continues, China’s positive trade surplus should diminish, balancing its exports and imports and removing some fear of its global export prowess.

4. China’s retail market is roughly equal to that of the U.S., and growing faster

Another measure of China’s expanding GDP is the extraordinary growth in its retail market, currently $5.2 trillion in sales compared to $5.3 trillion in the U.S. The boom in China’s retail market is driven by rising incomes in its middle class. The result, according to eMarketer senior forecasting director Monica Peart, has been “a marked rise in purchasing power and average spending per person.”

China’s e-retail market is even more remarkable, far and away the largest in the world. Peart notes, “China’s is by far the largest e-commerce market in the world—more than three times the size of the comparable U.S. market. China has a 54.7% share of the world’s e-commerce sales, while the U.S. has just 16.6%.”

The immensity of China’s economy has made it a global power. Last year, the People’s Republic of China celebrated its 70th anniversary with a National Day Parade in Beijing. On display was the country’s nuclear deterrent—a triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine—launched missiles, and air-launched weapons. The new, advanced ICBMs made their first public appearance, providing evidence that China’s nuclear triad is now fully developed and capable of defending the nation from any attack.

Despite the economic contraction caused by the coronavirus pandemic, China remains a mighty economic and military power that has no offensive posture toward the United States, or any neighboring country. Breaking with tradition, China has not issued an economic growth target for 2020. But according to the Wall Street Journal, its trade with the U.S. rose from February to April by nearly 43 percent—large enough to regain China’s position as our major trading partner.

Given the relative strength of China and the United States, it is clearly time for the two nations to work out a peaceful arrangement to cooperate. The U.S. should begin this initiative, while it is still possible to prevent a catastrophic war between the nations that would engulf us all.

The clock is ticking.

John V. Walsh can be reached at john.endwar@gmail.com. He writes about issues of war, peace and empire, and health care. A longer version of this article appeared by DissidentVoice.org.
When I first learned that mass protests against police violence had brought wide-spread looting and burning nail salons and other small businesses in their wake, my heart sank. I was almost sure I was watching Donald Trump’s re-election campaign unfolding in front of my eyes. Just as the antics of the “Youth International Party” (Yippies) and others at the 1968 Democratic Convention helped bring Richard Nixon to the White House—are elements with an appalling enthusiasm for violence as an instrument for social change now pulling Trump’s chestnuts out of the fire?

How could anyone be so lucky? At a time when Trump was on the ropes, due to his inept handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was handed an opportunity to change the conversation to “law and order” - something way more in his roundhouse. Then came Trump’s threat to “send in the troops” if governors (mostly Democratic governors) failed to “dominate” the streets, and the appearance of armored vehicles and unidentified “law enforcement” officers on the streets in D.C. Clearly Trump understood the gift he’d been given was prepared to exploit the daylights out of it! Was he even planning to use this as his Reichstag fire?

Imagine my surprise when I learned that Trump’s poll numbers actually went down during this period. Within a week of Trump’s idle threats, and actual displays of military force, came a chorus of denunciations from retired military officials taking exception to the descriptions of U.S city streets as “battle-space”.

After swaggering around the streets of Washington in full camo after being told, by Trump, that he was “in charge” (“of what?” many asked at the time) - the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff apologized and the Secretary of Defense announced belatedly - that the use of troops on U.S streets would be inappropriate. Last, but not least, Trump’s photo-op holding a Bible in front of a boarded-up church was widely mocked.

Meanwhile Black Lives Matter rose in the polls, gaining majority support for the first time. Across the country, mayors and governors are scrambling to respond to increasing demands for police reform. Even Republicans in Congress feel compelled to come up with their own (vastly watered down) version of police reform. Evidently, it isn’t 1968—or even 2016—anymore. Although most people are less than enthusiastic about burning and looting, most of us seem to be willing to do the right thing, anyway. Are the times finally a ‘changing?’
ADDRESSING CLIMATE ANXIETY

A virtual webinar and dialogue with Dr. Sarah Ray - Associate Professor & Department Chair of Environmental Studies at Humboldt State University

Dr. Ray will discuss strategies for coping with climate (and coronavirus) anxiety that she has pulled together from social movement theory, mindfulness, and the scholarly field of the environmental humanities in her new book, *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety: How to Keep Your Cool on a Warming Planet.*

There will be opportunity for Q&A, as well as breakout sessions for smaller groups to reflect on climate anxiety, and the resonance with our current moment of police brutality and COVID.

THURSDAY JULY 9TH
6:30PM - 8:00PM

Zoom Registration:
tinyurl.com/climateanxietywebinarjuly9

*Featuring a brief introduction to the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge by Sustainable Contra Costa - an initiative encouraging actions people can take to create a cleaner & healthier community!*

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE MDUUC CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE AND THE MT. DIABLO PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER
Contact Information
Let your voice be heard!

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1111
www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

Senator Kamala Harris
40B Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(916) 448-2787

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(415) 393-0707

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
3100 Oak Rd, Ste. 110
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
(925) 933-2660

Congressman John Garamendi
1261 Travis Blvd., Ste. 130
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 438-1822

Congressman Jerry McNerney
4703 Lone Tree Way
Antioch, CA 94531
(925) 754-0716

Congressman Mike Thompson
985 Walnut Ave.
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 645-1888

Congressman Eric Swalwell
5075 Hopyard Rd., Ste. 220
Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 460-5100

Artist: Dave Loewenstein via justseeds.org