



PEACE GAZETTE

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center: Fall 2022

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549-7461 : www.ourpeacecenter.org : 925-933-7850



Featured Artwork: Josh MacPhee via justseeds.org

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Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

Our purpose is to work for a culture of peace through education, advocacy and community building.

The Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

FOUNDER: Andy Baltzo, circa 1969

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Andrew Kodama

PEACE CENTER BOARD:
Marlene DeNardo, Ivette Maruri, Margli Auclair, Thomas Brom, Bob Maxwell, Rick Sterling, Taynay Matsumoto, Kathleen Barr

PEACE GAZETTE

Established by Arne Westerback, 1969

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PROOF-READER: Margli Auclair, Thomas Brom

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andrew@ourpeacecenter.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
www.facebook.com/MDPJC
www.twitter.com/MtDiabloPJC

PEACE CENTER WEBSITES:
www.ourpeacecenter.org
www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com

The Peace Gazette is a project of the Communications Committee of MDPJC. The views expressed are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily speak for all members of the Center or its Board of Directors.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

We are ecstatic to begin the return of regular in-person events and gatherings at the Center, starting with a forum on September 29th, hosted by longtime friends of the Center, Mickey Huff and Nolan Higdon of Project Censored. Project Censored works to educate the public about the dangers of censorship and emphasizes how a free press is essential to democracy.

On October 11th—we will be hosting an orientation meeting for a program of the Center—a reading and discussion group focused on strategies for cultivating an anti-racist community. For more information on this new program, please view our website. (www.ourpeacecenter.org)

Feelings of scarcity, fear, and uncertainty can bring out the worst in us—and pit otherwise like-minded people against each other. I am sure you have seen examples of this escalating tension globally, online and even in your own communities.

As we all slowly emerge from this pandemic—it is important that we practice great care, patience, and empathy for one another. One of the main goals of the Peace Center has always been to serve our community as “a local voice for peace”.

This involves bringing people together in-person and cultivating a true sense of a peace community here in our area. It means providing space for difficult conversations and topics that are important to us. It means remembering that as peace activists—we are on the same team.

We have seen in the past how effective and powerful our voice is when it united against injustice. The 50+ year history of the Peace Center is rich with inspiring actions, programs, and gatherings that significantly shaped the culture of peace activism in our area.

As we look towards our future—we will draw on this history and use it as a roadmap to continue our vision of being a ‘local voice for peace’.

A big part of this vision involves you! We are always seeking members of the Center or new friends to get more involved with what we are doing here. As a small grassroots non-profit organization we rely heavily on the support and initiative of our members.

Nearly all of our current programs were brought to us by board members or community members and our ears are always open to ideas for events, programs, or hosting discussions on peace-related topics that our community brings to us.

To get in touch, please email (andrew@ourpeacecenter.org) or call our office: 925 933 7850.

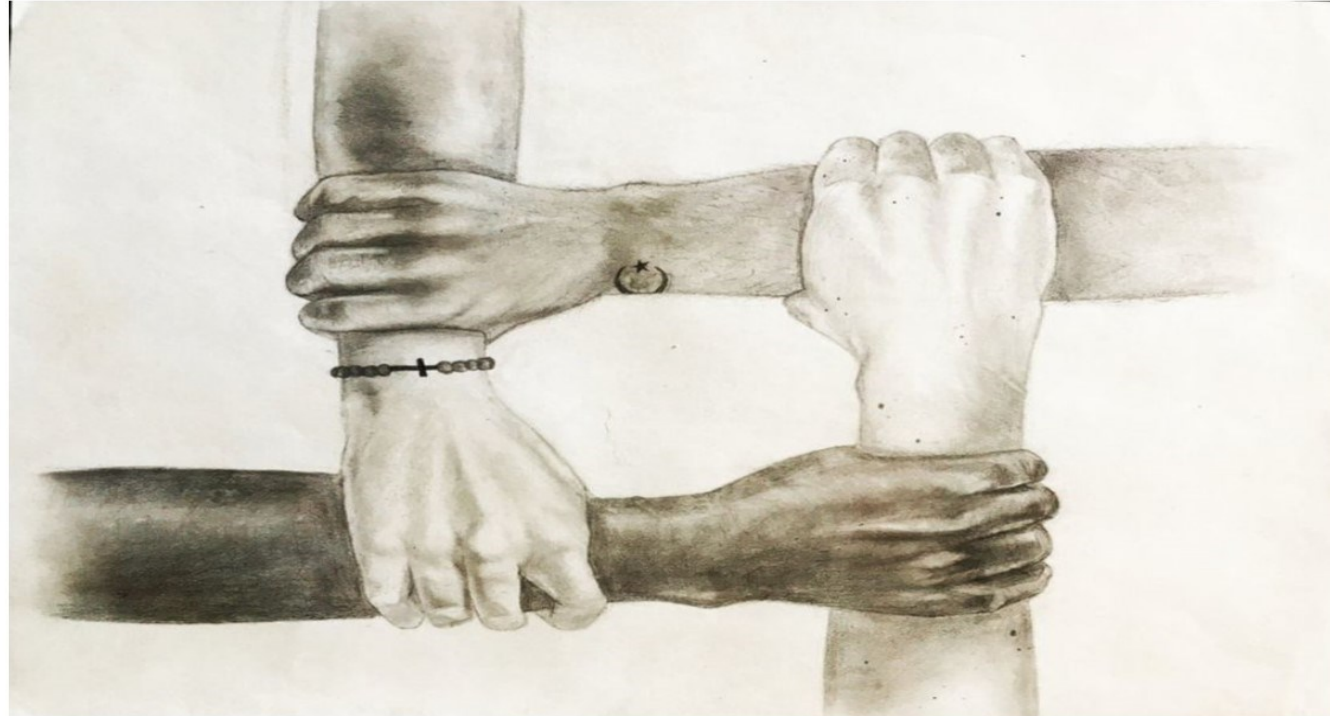
In solidarity,

Andrew Kodama



Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center presents

A DIALOGUE TO ACTION! ADDRESSING RACISM



HOW DO WE CULTIVATE ANTI-RACISM IN OUR HOME COMMUNITY?

PLEASE JOIN OUR READING / DISCUSSION GROUP!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 7 - 8 PM / Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette (aka Creekside Commons / Our Savior's Lutheran)

Discussion Facilitator, Magret Nunes, is an experienced Social Justice Activist and public high school teacher. She has been organizing meetings on this topic throughout the East Bay for several years. Nunes received a grant to purchase books for loan to attendees and has an extensive collection to share.

At this initial meeting we will introduce Nunes, discuss the goals of the series and distribute copies of the first book, *HOW TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST*, by Ibram X. Kendi. We will also decide on future meeting dates and what books/readings will be used. Suggested titles not currently in Nunes' collection will also be considered.

REGISTRATION REQUESTED as there are a limited number of books available.

www.tinyurl.com/peacecenterreadinggroup

or contact the Center (925) 933-7850 / Margli@ourpeacecenter.org / MORE INFO: www.ourpeacecenter.org — a 501(c)(3)

Artwork: Collaboration by Natalie Aday, Grand Prize Winner 2017, 19th Annual Art & Writing Challenge, Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center



BANNED IN THE USA

BY [MICKEY S. HUFF](#) (originally appeared on Project Censored 9/20/22)

As Banned Books Week Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary, It's Time to Unequivocally Condemn Censorship.

In her best-selling novel *Speak*, young adult author Laurie Halse Anderson wrote, "Censorship is the child of fear and the father of ignorance." Since the American Library Association (ALA) and Association of American Publishers helped launch Banned Books Week (BBW) forty years ago, that dysfunctional family of censorship has unfortunately grown larger and more vociferous.

Across the United States, this past year has brought a staggering increase in book challenges, bans, and other attacks on the right to read and academic freedom. Most efforts to curtail access to books involves younger readers at schools and public libraries. There are recurrent themes to such challenges that result in the muting of voices from outside the so-called "mainstream" of American society. According to the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, the top ten most challenged books in recent years are by or about marginalized peoples, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ authors and characters; these books typically address complex, challenging issues such as sexuality, abuse, and violence; or they simply use profanity.

Some of the books reference traumatic realities in people's lives, others question the societal status quo on issues from police violence to heteronormativity or identity politics. Regardless, all are important works of literature, including many artistic and broadly appealing comics that have something to teach us, especially in educational settings. However, increasingly, parents and local community members around the country disagree.

In Spring 2022, PEN America published findings from its first ever Index of School Book Bans, a comprehensive count of more than 1,500 instances of individual books banned by some 86 school districts in 26 states, between July 2021 and March 2022, impacting more than two million students. The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom reported fielding 729 book challenges in 2021 alone, targeting nearly 1,600 titles at schools and universities. Both organizations clearly state that the number of reports received are only a fraction of the challenges and potential bans that occur, many of which result in books being removed from shelves, in breach of existing policies, without fanfare or public knowledge, and often under a cloud of fear among librarians, faculty, and staff.

This rise in censorship comes at a time when the United States is in the throes of a larger moral panic epitomized by a corrosive "cancel culture" that spans the political spectrum from right to left. Although educators and concerned citizens have sounded the alarm, cancel culture has also galvanized students to fight back on the front lines, in classrooms and at school board meetings. Cameron Samuels did just that in their suburban Houston school district this past year as a high school senior, with great success. Starting as a lone voice decrying parental challenges to books at their school, Samuels gradually built a coalition of students, engaging the school board and broader community, and creating a "FReadom Week" initiative that distributed more than 700 banned titles. The campaign Samuels led kept many challenged books on the shelves at the school's library, garnered national attention, and led to Samuels being recognized this year as BBW's first ever Youth Honorary Chair.

But challenges to books are not the only issue facing students and our schools. There has also been an increase in legislative efforts to curtail curriculum, controlling what can and cannot be taught, in at least 36 states. Another PEN America study, “America’s Censored Classrooms,” measured a 250 percent increase over the past year in what the study refers to as Educational Gag Orders, state legislative efforts to restrict “teaching about topics such as race, gender, American history, and LGBTQ+ identities in K–12 and higher education.” They include not only the infamous “Don’t Say Gay” law and Stop WOKE Act in Florida (which several other states are mimicking), but also legislative attacks on critical race theory (despite it seldom being taught in K-12 classrooms) and requirements to enforce the teaching of more “patriotic” (read: acritical) assessments of American history, whatever that may be. All of the bills were launched by Republicans in their respective states, with only one Democratic sponsor among them. While many in the GOP denounce cancel culture on the left, they seem to be perfectly fine controlling what can be read, discussed, and taught in the nation’s schools.

Moving forward, one thing is clear: although the country is divided on many topics and issues, canceling views or perspectives with which one disagrees is not the solution. Open dialogue, discourse, and debate hold the answers to our current conundrum. Opposing censorship and supporting academic freedom must be bipartisan issues. It is one thing to prohibit one’s own child from reading a specific book, shortsighted and ineffectual as that prohibition may be; it is another thing altogether to extend that forbidding desire to the public at large, depriving others of hearing the many wonderful and diverse voices that comprise our society. Children should not be taught to fear ideas different than their own, and adults should not let ignorance guide their civic engagement.

For its 40th anniversary, the Banned Books Week Coalition’s theme is “Books Unite Us: Censorship Divides Us.” Indeed, as we survey today’s contentious political climate, we would all do well to pick up, read, and share a banned book or two. Doing so, we might discover amazing things about each other—not to mention ourselves. We can learn how to “agree to disagree,” while honoring the higher ideals of an open society, free expression, and the right to read. Censorship anywhere is a threat to “FReadom” everywhere. Celebrate Banned Books Week September 18-24, but stay vigilant and keep reading and sharing banned books every week throughout the year.

Mickey Huff is the director of Project Censored and president of the nonprofit Media Freedom Foundation. To date, he has co-edited 13 editions of the Project’s yearbook, including most recently Project Censored’s State of the Free Press (2022), with Andy Lee Roth. He is professor of social science, history, and journalism at Diablo Valley College, where he co-chairs the history program and is chair of the Journalism Department. Huff is executive producer and host of The Project Censored Show, a weekly syndicated public affairs program that airs across the U.S. on Pacifica Radio.

Learn more at projectcensored.org.



The News That Didn't Make The News

WALNUT CREEK Sustainability Week
OCTOBER 22-28

EcoFest in the Park
SATURDAY, OCT. 22 11AM - 3PM
CIVIC PARK, WC

Fun for the whole family!
LIVE MUSIC & CIRCUS PERFORMERS • KIDS ART ZONE • ECO TRICK-OR-TREAT • E-BIKE DEMOS
ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOW

Learn to live more sustainably
HOME • TRANSPORTATION • LIFESTYLE CHOICES • UPCYCLING • WATER-WISE GARDENING • AND MORE!

ASK THE EXPERTS AT THE PARK OR AT ONLINE EVENTS ALL WEEK LONG

WEAR YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME!

TINYURL.COM/SUSTAINABLEWC
TINYURL.COM/WCECOFEST

SCAN TO VIEW SCHEDULE & REGISTER HERE

The poster is a vibrant, colorful illustration. It features a large yellow sun with a smiling face on the left, a green house with solar panels, a green car at a charging station, a person gardening, a wind turbine, and a group of people riding bicycles. The background is a mix of green, yellow, and brown tones, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

Walnut Creek Sustainability Week: October 22nd-28th

For specific event information & registration, please visit:
www.sustainablewalnutcreek.org

Saturday, October 22 “Kick-Off and Ecofest” @ Civic Park

11 am – 3 pm EcoFest, fun for the whole family to learn to live more sustainably.

Sunday, October 23 “Climate Advocacy”

9 am – 1 pm: Interactive Booth at The Walnut Creek Farmers Market.

1 pm – 3:30 pm: Family Cycling Workshop, Location: Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center (Parking Lot), 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette.

7 pm – 8:30 pm: Online Event “It’s Never Too Late to Become a Climate Activist – An overview of the climate crisis, and how we can catalyze global solutions”.

Monday, October 24 “Planet Friendly Diet”

6 pm – 8:00 pm: Hybrid Event “Delicious Healthy Foods That Save Our Planet”. Location: Ygnacio Library, Oak Grove Rd., Walnut Creek.

Tuesday, October 25 “Nature’s Gifts”

7 pm – 8 pm: Online Event “Environmental Restoration in the Walnut Creek Watershed: Recent Community Efforts”.

Wednesday, October 26 “Plastic-free”

7 pm – 8:30 pm Online Event “Plastics, Recycling and You – Our New State Law – How to Shop Locally – Recycling’s Latest”.

Thursday, October 27 “Electrification”

12 pm – 1pm: Online Event “Lunch & Learn: Virtual Green Home Tour”.

7 pm – 8:30pm: Online Event “How to Electrify Your Home: Learn about programs and rebates that will save you money and create a healthier home environment”.

Friday, October 28 “Youth Activism and Appreciation”

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Online Event “Climate Change-Makers: Youth Activists Working for a Better World”.

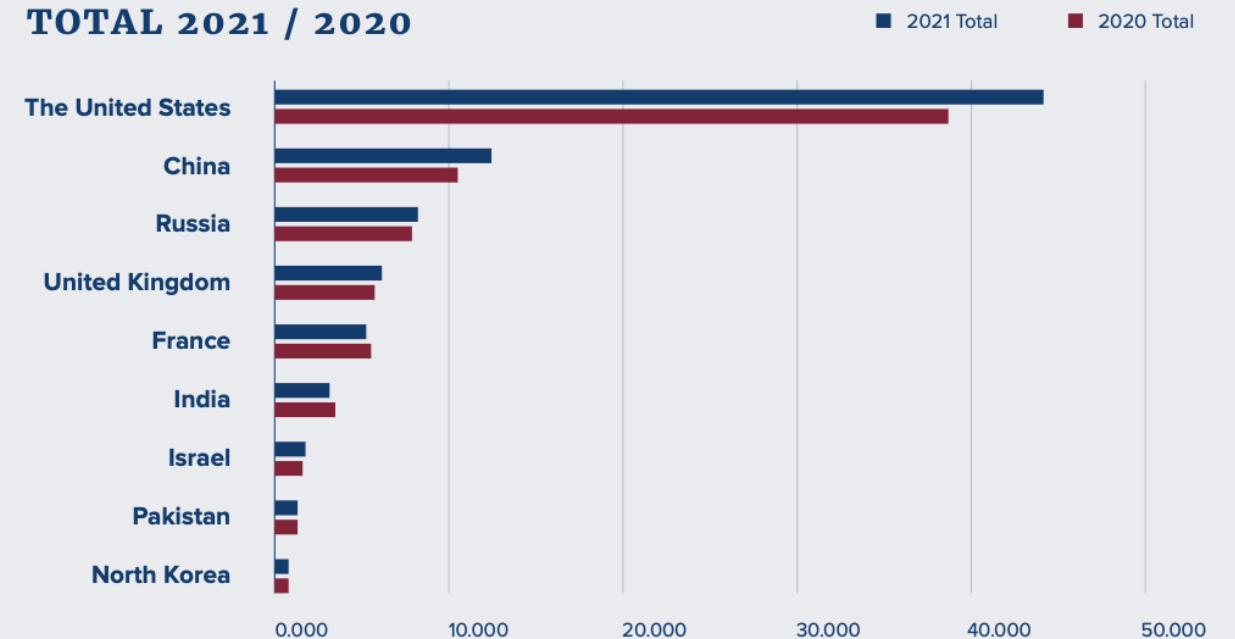
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Sustainability Week Closing Online Event “Walnut Creek, 2022 – Walnut Creek’s 4CL Report Card, and where we can have the biggest impact”.

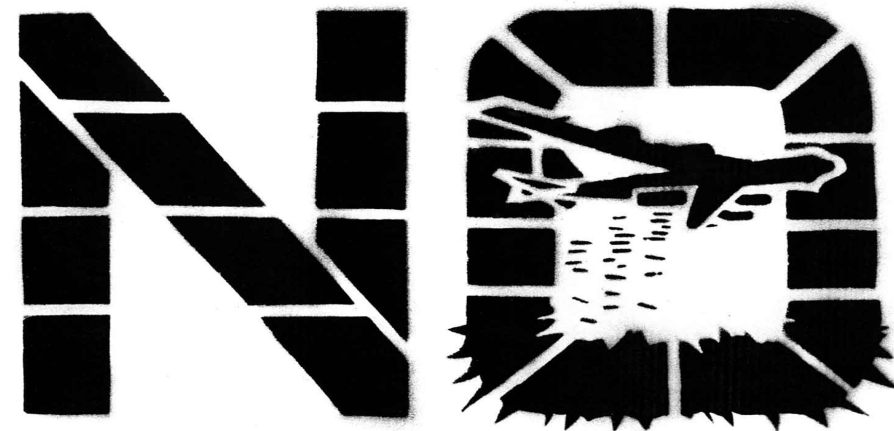
Excerpt from *Squandered: 2021 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending*—a report by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANW). To view the full report please visit: www.icanw.org/reports_and_research

While the UN works to abolish nuclear weapons, spending on them is increasing in some countries (totals in billions). The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANW) has calculated that last year, the United States spent over \$84,000 per minute on nuclear weapons (ICANW, [June 2022](#)).

The United States	\$44.2 billion ⌚ \$84,094 / minute	Israel	\$1.2 billion ⌚ \$2,315 / minute
China	\$11.7 billion ⌚ \$22,325 / minute	Pakistan	\$1.1 billion ⌚ \$2,151 / minute
Russia	\$8.6 billion ⌚ \$16,301 / minute	North Korea	\$642 million ⌚ \$1,221 / minute
The United Kingdom	\$6.8 billion ⌚ \$12,873 / minute	2021 Total ⌚ \$156,841 / minute	
France	\$5.9 billion ⌚ \$11,245 / minute	2020 Total ⌚ \$144,554 / minute	
India	\$2.3 billion ⌚ \$4,315 / minute	2020 figures adjusted for inflation.	

TOTAL 2021 / 2020





From [Defuse Nuclear War](#):

October 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis — when the Soviet Union and U.S. engaged in a tense standoff over the installation of nuclear weapons in Cuba.

It is widely considered the closest the two superpowers ever came to nuclear war... until now. While the dangers of nuclear war have risen sharply this year, very few members of the House and Senate have risen to the occasion by speaking out or publicly urging measures to de-escalate tensions between nuclear powers and seriously revive negotiations for nuclear-weapons treaties and disarmament measures.

This October, we demand attention be paid to the very real threat posed by nuclear weapons.



Say NO to NUKES

OCTOBER
MONTH OF ACTION

www.DefuseNuclearWar.org

Oct 14, 2022 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Picket at Offices of
Sens. Feinstein and Padilla

Feinstein: 1 Post St., San Francisco
Padilla: 333 Bush St., San Francisco

MY DAD, *Stephanie*

A documentary short by Lisa Singer and Harry Haese

Please join Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church and the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center for a screening and panel discussion with the filmmaker and Stephanie herself!!

“My Dad, Stephanie” follows 71-year-old Phil, just a “regular” dad who finally revealed in 2013 to family and friends that she is transgender, a secret she had kept hidden all of her life. When filming began in 2013, most people did not understand what it meant to be transgender. Taken by surprise, her daughter and son-in-law immediately began filming, capturing Stephanie’s life as a man, her transition, and their reactions over the next five years. *“My Dad, Stephanie”* follows the joy, heartache, and humor of Stephane’s transition from her life as a man to living full-time as a woman.

October 30, 2022 / 1—3 PM / 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

OR online via Zoom Webinar

Please register for this event here no matter how you plan on attending:

<https://tinyurl.com/mydadstephanie>



**WELLBEING
ECONOMY
ALLIANCE
CALIFORNIA**

We are part of an international organization that seeks to transition our economies from profit-making and wealth building as our first priority to the planet’s and peoples’ well-being as our first priority.

Our society’s measure of success is unending growth in our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). While this reliance on GDP since the end of World War II has yielded enormous benefits for most of us, it appears that following this path is leading to an ecological and social catastrophe.

The Wellbeing Economy Alliance California believes it is time to transition from exploiting the commons for profit to collective management of the commons, from thin representation to meaningful representation beyond party politics, from assumption-laden economic theories to real world data-based economic studies, from short-term profiteering to longer term beneficial investments, from the marginalization of young people to involving them in community decision-making, from high income inequality to low, from bloated military budgets to disarmament as the road to greater security, and so on.

We work with local partners to educate citizens to their own power, bring about community decision making, and build collaborative networks to define community well-being and bring it to life. If you know of a city in the Bay Area that might be interested in making this transition, contact Rex Green at newconstitution@yahoo.com.



Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email Address: _____

Please send me the *Peace Gazette* by snail mail ___ e-mail ___

I request an Annual Membership in the following category:

- ◇ \$50 Basic Membership
- ◇ \$100 Family Membership (2 or more persons)
- ◇ \$20-\$50 Student/Sliding Scale
- ◇ \$100-\$250 Membership Plus
- ◇ \$250-\$500 Supporting Member
- ◇ \$500-\$1,000 Sustaining Member
- ◇ \$1,000-\$2,000 Peace Giver
- ◇ \$2,000 + Visionary

CHECKS payable to *Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center* and mail to *1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette CA 94549*

CREDIT or DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS:

I would prefer to make a pledge **Monthly** ___ OR **Quarterly** ___ OR **Annually** ___ in the amount of \$ _____.

If you would like us to handle the processing of any ongoing pledges, please check here _____.

I hereby authorize the *Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center* to charge my credit/debit card for the above amount.

Card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

Or, you can donate any amount online at ourpeacecenter.org

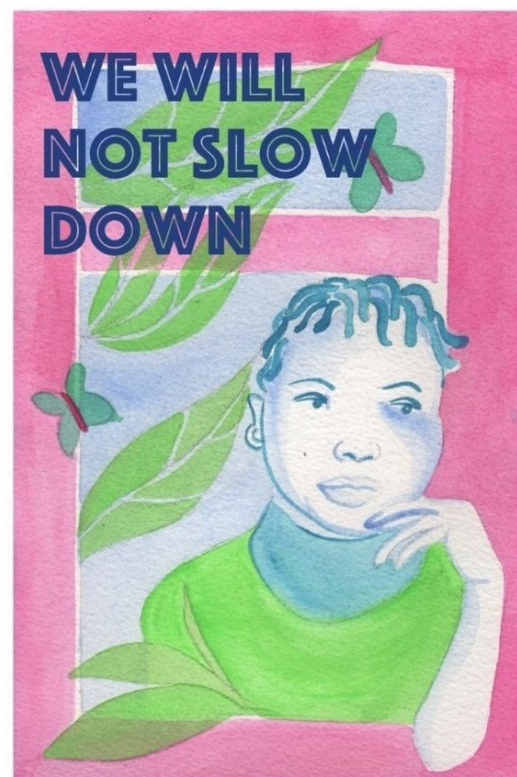
The Center is back! We are ecstatic to make our return to in-person events! Convening and engaging with our community in-person is truly the heart of our organization. Now that we are back, we can't wait to see you!

As a small non-profit - member contributions really do provide the backbone for our programming. In fact, over 70% of our funding comes from membership.

Would you consider becoming a monthly donor? A number of our members have recently switched over to making monthly contributions. This goes a long way in helping to support our programs.

Thanks to YOU - the Center has been able to continue for over 50 years. With your help, we can continue to grow and thrive over the next 50 years!

Visit us online: ourpeacecenter.org



Vic Barrett (b. 2000, @vict_barrett)



Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA 94549

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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- CONTACTS & EVENTS -

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, October 11th—7PM
A New Program—Anti-Racist Reading Discussion Group, in-person @ the Center!

JOIN US & INVITE A FRIEND !

When?

Tuesday, October 11th
(7PM)

Where?

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette CA
94549

RSVP:

www.tinyurl.com/peacecenterreadinggroup



Contact Information
Let your voice be heard!

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

Senator Alex Padilla
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
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
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Pleasanton, CA 94588
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