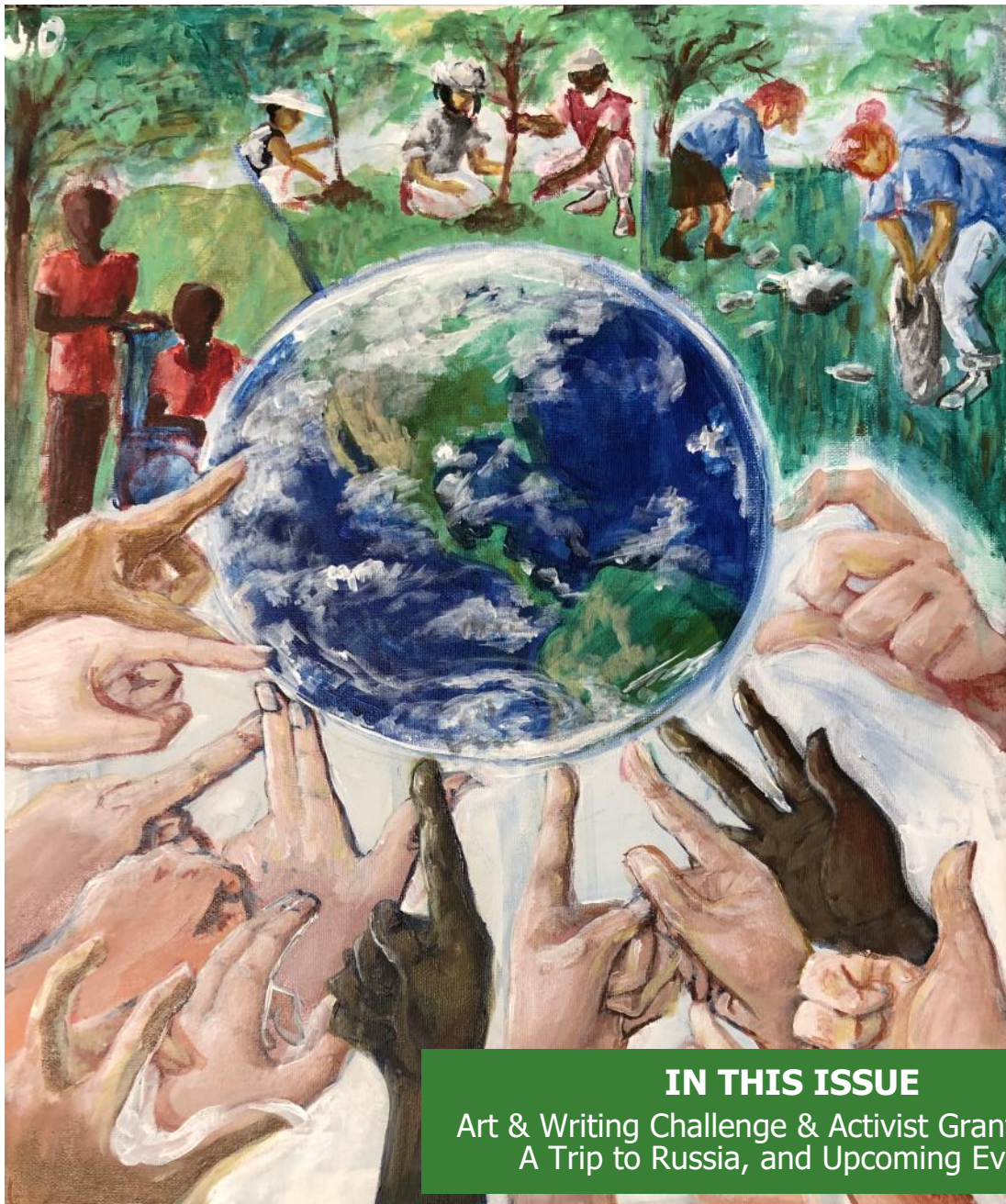


Peace Gazette

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
Summer 2023



*We Can Change the World!**



IN THIS ISSUE

Art & Writing Challenge & Activist Grant Awards,
A Trip to Russia, and Upcoming Events!

*2023 Art & Writing Challenge First Place Winner by Chamin-Uils Davaasuren, Walnut Creek Intermediate School

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, California 94549

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

PEACE CENTER BOARD:

Amneh Ma'bad Ahmed, Bob Spies, Karen Perkins, Michael Stein, Margli Auclair, Thomas Brom, Bob Maxwell, Rick Sterling, Andrew Kodama and Kathleen Barr

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Established by Arne Westerback, 1969

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www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com

The *Peace Gazette* is a project of the Communications Committee of MDPJC, compiled and distributed quarterly. 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.

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Greetings members and friends of The Center!

This Summer Edition of the *Peace Gazette* is dedicated primarily to our recent 25th Annual Art & Writing Challenge and 5th Annual Youth Activist Grant Awards event. We had a decent turnout including a record number of highly supportive teachers. Highlights this year were a talented creator of original music/lyrics, incredible poetry, and an impressively spontaneous poetry slam group. It's always an inspiring event! We'll be getting all of the winning writings and art up on our dedicated website soon. Check it out at:

www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com

Now that Covid-19 is settling down, we're getting more in-person events lined up. Suggestions for independent films, speakers, and teach-ins, etc., are always welcome. Anything to get woke!

Our board will be holding a retreat in August to take stock of our priorities and set a game plan for how to best serve the local needs of our peace community. If you've not done so yet, please return your membership survey.

- Margli Auclair and the Communications Committee



Ideas of Young People Make a Difference in My Thinking,
by Tithimagron Maksiri, Walnut Creek Intermediate - Honorable Mention

Recap of the 25th Annual Dennis Thomas Art & Writing Challenge and the 5th Annual Youth Activist Grant Awards!

Our **Art & Writing Challenge**, named in honor of its founder Dennis T. Thomas, is organized to encourage local youth to address issues of peace and social justice through **fine art** (includes visual art, sculpture, photography, video, and music) or **writing** (creative writing or essay). First prize winners in each category received an award of \$250!

Topic/Prompt for 2023: "Young People Making a Difference"

This theme was meant to encourage students' thoughts and discussion around making a positive difference in their communities. We were inspired by the legacy of young people who have taken activism into their own hands. From Greta Thunberg's leadership in raising awareness about the global climate movement to student activists from Parkland, Florida, protesting gun violence in schools (March for Our Lives - nationwide protest 2018), and children from Birmingham, Alabama, braving arrest to protest segregation (*Children's Crusade* - documentary film, 1963), we have seen the power young people hold in mobilizing others to demand change. We wanted them to share their visions of what effective change-making looks like and how it can be accomplished!



This year **143 students** participated in the Challenge from throughout Contra Costa County! This number was considerably higher than the past few years when the schools had challenging schedules and relied heavily on remote learning due to Covid-19. We look forward to getting more participation in the coming years as the schools return to their normal schedules.

Youth Activist Grant Awards:

We are constantly inspired by the tireless dedication of young people in our community who are 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 agents of positive change and we want to recognize those leading the charge!

In 2019, the year of our 50th Anniversary, we decided we needed to create something special to commemorate the anniversary while also acknowledging these young activists. To that end we decided to provide financial grant awards in the amount of \$250 to deserving recipients!

The community was invited to nominate a **youth organization, an individual, or a group of young people, grades 6-12**, who show exemplary leadership and dedication for social justice, organizing, and human rights. Nominees must have been **residents of Contra Costa County** to be eligible.

This Summer issue of the *Peace Gazette* is dedicated to showcasing just some of this year's winning submissions and recognizing this year's winning students!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

ALEXIS DELMONICO, Las Lomas High School — ART
CHELSEA HUMMEL, Freedom High School — CREATIVE WRITING
ADELAIDE BERRETT, Northgate High School — ESSAY
CHAMIN-UILS DAVAASUREN, Walnut Creek Intermediate — ART
ANAIHAH SINGH, Dorris-Eaton Middle School — CREATIVE WRITING
ERIC LI, Dorris-Eaton Middle School — ESSAY

SECOND PLACE WINNERS

ALEXA FO, Monte Vista High School — ART
LIAN BLAISDELL, Clayton Valley High School — CREATIVE WRITING
ETHAN KIM, Las Lomas High School — ESSAY
ERIKA ZECENA, Pleasant Hill Middle School — ART
MYA GONZALES, Betty Reid-Soskin Middle School — CREATIVE WRITING
JASMINE YE, Dorris-Eaton Middle School — ESSAY

HONORABLE MENTION

Raima Firdaws	Dougherty Valley High School	High School Art
Adrian Chelal	Heritage High school	High School Art
Anthony Mikhail	Dougherty Valley High School	High School Art
Ella Melin	Las Lomas High School	High School Creative Writing
Stephanie Baiza	Las Lomas High School	High School Creative Writing
Anaiah Singh	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Art
Maya Yuryeva	Foothill Middle School	Middle School Art
Tithimagron Maksiri	Walnut Creek Intermediate	Middle School Art
Maleya De Jesus	Foothill Middle School	Middle School Art
Elijah Wertheimer	Orinda Intermediate School	Middle School Art
Zayan Kajani	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Creative Writing
Neel Gupta	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Creative Writing
Derek Wu	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Creative Writing
Frank Elder	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Essay
Kelsey Wu	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Essay
Anh (Anna) Truong	Iron Horse Middle School	Middle School Essay
Maggie Cai	The Dorris-Eaton School	Middle School Essay

YOUTH ACTIVIST GRANT AWARDS

THE CREATIO VERITAS (CV) POETRY SLAM — Clayton Valley High School
MIKALA SURMAN CAREY — John Swett High School



May 20, 2023
**ART & WRITING
 CHALLENGE**
**AWARDS
 LUNCHEON**

The Awards Luncheon was held in the front garden patio of Creekside Commons in Lafayette, where the Peace Center has its office. It was a chilly and windy day, but we had a great turnout nonetheless and heard from many inspiring youth!



Our board member, Amneh Ma’bad Ahmed, shown here with her two children Ahmed and Nour, donated funds for many of the awards this year, in memory of her late husband, Hisham Ahmed, Ph.D. former professor of politics at St. Mary’s College, Moraga.



Winners in attendance: L—R, Erika Zecena, Adelaide Berrett, Lian Blaisdell, Alexa Fo, Chelsea Hummel, and Jasmine Ye.



Andrew Kodama emceed the event, here with Alexa Fo, 2nd place winner in High School Art - original music and lyrics, *Who I Am*.

COMMENT ON THIS YEAR'S ART & WRITING SUBMISSIONS:

When Alexis Delmonico and her mother came by the Center office in Lafayette to drop off her huge piece of artwork (photo below), I met the two outside at the main entry where Alexis handed me the painting. It immediately took my breath away. The headlines on gun massacres with bloody fingerprints spanning decades were too much. Alexis' mother shared with me that she had grown up in Connecticut not far from Sandy Hook Elementary School and how that massacre had been traumatic for her even though she was now an adult, living in California. For the next several hours I had trouble focusing on office work as I could think of nothing except the insanity of the way we ignore the issue of gun violence and how guns are the NUMBER ONE killer of children in the United States. It disturbs me that I'm becoming numb to this issue.

After reading the poetry and essays submitted this year, the judges commented that this issue is very much on the minds of our children. Several of the winning creative writing pieces touched on gun violence. We share them below. - Margli Auclair



Thoughts & Prayers, by Alexis Delmonico, Las Lomas High School, First Place, Art

Run, Hide, Fight by Lian Blaisdell
Clayton Valley High School, Second Place, Creative Writing

Run, Hide, Fight.

These were the words texted to students at Michigan State University when a gunman opened fire on them this last February.

Run - wherever you go, be aware of alternate exits

Hide - if there is no safe escape route, find a good hiding place

Fight - fight only as a last resort

Three killed, five injured. The suspected gunman took his own life.

Run, Hide, Fight. Is this the best my country can do to protect me?

366 school shootings since 1999. School should be safe and secure—a place where children can grow and thrive. Yet, over 338,000 students have been exposed to gun violence at school.

In America, why can't I buy alcohol at eighteen, but I can buy a gun that can kill in seconds? Why is being a legal gun owner easier than being a legal driver? Why are there more guns than possible gun owners in the United States?

Whenever gun laws are proposed, gun owners get defensive.

They quote the 2nd Amendment. "It's in the Constitution; it's my right to bear arms."

They fear for their safety. "I have a right to self defense."

They shoot down background checks. "It's an invasion of my privacy."

They deny that death from mass shootings is on the rise, despite guns becoming the leading cause of death among children in the US.

For his 18th birthday, Salvador Ramos had no trouble purchasing two AR platform rifles and 375 rounds of ammunition. Less than a week later, he

entered Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and killed 21 people. 19 of them were children. Makenna Lee Elrod loved softball and gymnastics; Jose Flores Jr. wanted to be a police officer when he grew up; Xavier Javier Lopez was praised at Robb Elementary's honor roll ceremony only hours before. A survivor, 11 year old Miah Cerrillo, smeared her face with her dead friend's blood and played dead to avoid being shot.

People say America is the greatest country in the world, but can a country that allows this slaughter of their children be considered so?

We need better gun laws that will reduce gun violence in America and help it live up to its reputation. Active shooter drills won't make schools safer. Arming teachers won't make schools safer. Stationing police officers on campus won't make schools safer.

Vote, Fight, Educate.

These are the words that America needs to hear and respond to—to make a better, safer country.

Vote for leaders who make gun safety a priority, leaders willing to address this gun violence.

Fight for better gun laws: enforce background checks, enforce red flag laws, increase minimum age for ownership, implement licensing rules. We forget the 2nd Amendment starts with, "A well regulated Militia . . ." Why are we not regulating this militia?

Educate people about the cost and tragedy wreaked by gun violence. Teach them peace.

For years, legislators have cowered under threat of the NRA, just like we cower under our desks. We deserve laws and protection, not thoughts and prayers.

Vote, Fight, Educate.

For My Brother, by Anaiyah Singh,
Dorris-Eaton Middle School, First Place, Creative Writing

4/20/2023

My brother came out of the hospital today. The doctors say he should be able to walk in a few days, but I could tell there was a type of pain inside that was swallowing him whole, like the bullet that shot through his hips. He told me, barely able to speak, “I won’t go back to school.” He used to love school, but he was scared he wouldn’t come home this time. How could it be that a man thought holding a gun to a child could soothe his pain? Since when was school a danger zone? My brother lost himself because of a man’s violence.

4/21/2023

PTSD. My brother let the dark reality leak into his innocence.

“I’m scared one day one of you won’t come home from school,” my mother sobbed. My mother, a fiery flame, lost her spark that day brother came home.

My brother stared at the ground, and I could feel the weight of dark truths drowning him.

He is only 16.

4/22/2023

Our middle school principal called to everyone, “...holding a protest for gun laws.... strongly en-

couraged to join.” We were holding a protest, and so many heads shot up and faces were hungry for the taste of revenge, sitting on their tongues.

I went home, and my mom told me I could, but my dad said the police would come. “Let them,” my mother banged her fist on the table, spreading fire through the room. “She has to learn.” And my dad walked into his room, his head full of disappointment.

“What happened?” I asked.

“None of us thought we would have to worry about this,” my mother replied.

4/23/2023

Hundreds of students flooded the field, where the belly of the beast would form. But we were forming a beast that wouldn’t use its claws.

All of us made signs from cardboard. Our inner child slipped into the art. We wanted to use glitter and stickers and draw stars, but we had to tell ourselves not to.

We weren’t children anymore.

The world wouldn’t let us be.

Cont. on page 9

4/24/2023

Two more days until we walk in front of city hall. There aren't enough of us, and no one would listen, but our principal told us not to worry. She said that what we were doing was enough.

I didn't know what to write on my sign, so I brought it home for my mom to help me. When I showed her my sign, she brought black paint from the garage.

"Can I write something?" she asked. Her eyes, a honey-glazed brown, ignited as she grabbed a paintbrush and wrote in big, black letters: *For My Brother*

4/25/2023

Brother didn't realize I was part of a protest today. He stormed out of his room and looked at me with anger. "She'll get hurt. Are you crazy?"

I still left, but I could hear his cries. I could hear the voice of my brother living in fear.

Everyone stood at the school, shouting with pride. The principal led us to the streets where we marched holding the signs.

After five minutes, some people joined, and in the distance, I saw the biggest smile on the principal as we came up to city hall. Many people stared, but I couldn't blame them. Who would ever think half a school of 13-year-olds would be

able to do this? Even I could not fathom that.

The principal left with the police later. Everyone was confused because we thought she did nothing wrong. And from a distance she yelled at us, "keep going!"

In the distance, I could see another sign: *For My Friend*

4/25/2023

After four hours, we got sent back. We were on the news with millions of people watching us.

"Nothing will change," I told my mom.

"Oh no. Don't you worry, darling. This is only chapter 1." She smiled.

4/26/2023

Brother saw the news too, and he saw me in it. He cried and smiled at the same time. I felt the weight of his tears as they flowed into me. We are intertwined. We rise like flowers. We sing like birds. We spread through a forest like wildfire.

I will fight until my blood runs cold. I will rise for the fallen. I will rise like my life depends on it. I will rise so my brother finds hope in the world again.

Watch me rise and fight and rise.

For my brother. Watch us rise and fight and rise.

For our brothers.

Social Justice in Steps (Fire in Stasis, Awaits)

by Chelsea Hummel, Freedom High School, First Place, Creative Writing

When you feel the flickers
lighting up the damp corridors of your mind
not enough to warm but maybe
maybe it will still mark the cold stone
leave a shadow and a reminder
the beauty of light

The snap of a lighter
a crackle of orange
a blink before it's gone
a blink before it's back
clicking into awareness
the walls are overgrown
moss and vines
heat has no place, nor light
to remind of the warmth

Maybe one day there will be an explosion
you'll trip as it rings through the air
bright and fiery and dangerous
a stutter of breath
fear
cascading like debris and stars
threatening to break
makes you miss the quiet dark

You'll hide, perhaps
scared of the heat that was once light and warmth
hiding where you're safe
from even light enough to see
dark and cold and isolated

Safe
Right?
Right...?
Right
Safe

A whisper
rise
A rustle
petition

Noise
protest
Raising in volume
fight
Reinvigorating
unify
A line of light through the crack of a door
step up
A reverberating call to action
step out
A pounding of the demand for justice
into the light
Shaking the door on its hinges
into the fray
Chanting for the people
into the crowds
Marching for the people
into the war of freedoms and hearts and rights
The people

The light comes from everywhere
a nova
stars colliding
some of it phosphorus
some of it bioluminescent
some of it is powered by coal and slave labor and inhu-
manity and injustice
some of it is powered by hope and hardship and heart-
ache and passion and dreams
it's explosive and can be dangerous
but light is necessary for life
without it "life is a barren field frozen with snow" (L.
Hughes)

So with creaking bones and aching joints
shaking off atrophy and exhaustion
dawn arrives with warmth to thaw the ice
the demand for justice is a demand for life
for peace and equity
for everything necessary and important
for that which sustains
And, *stars* above, does it sustain

The Problem of Censorship by Eric Li

Dorris-Eaton Middle School, First Place, Essay

As the newest generation, we have the responsibility to promote change and freedom to create a new and better world. One of the greatest threats to our generation is media censorship and misinformation. The Covid-19 pandemic brought upon unprecedented change to the media; huge corporations and governments were successfully able to weaponize the media. Using critical thinking, a young person can easily distinguish the lies the media has been feeding us and the truth. Big tech and government created an unholy union that has, in essence, destroyed the first amendment. Attempts from some people to expose truth have been futile, as they get shut down on news outlets.

For example, when the Twitter Files showed that the FBI was actively working with Twitter to take down certain posts, mainstream media were quick to do absolutely nothing. Instead of reporting on news like they were supposed to, many media outlets simply chose to let the topic slide. The Twitter Files were some of the most monumental documents ever released, yet nothing was done to make people aware. Only those that followed the events closely were able to understand the true facts, while the ordinary folk got fed nothing.

One of the first things a person can realize if they step outside all the noise within the mainstream media is how many people genuinely care about what is true and what is a lie. Another thing a person can realize is how unbelievably stupid debates held on mainstream media are. Most of the debates are irrelevant relative to what is really important –the truth. In five years, nobody will remember the debates.

It is incredible how monopolized the landscape of politics and media are. The repeated lie told to everyone is that America is a two-party system. Well, no. We have multiple parties, only the two major ones have monopolized the landscape so much that only they can get their voices to the American people. The two major political parties in the United States and their donors collude to shut down undeniably big topics that will define our future. For instance, issues regarding war, civil liberties, emerging science, change in demographics, corporate power, and natural resources are regularly being shut down.

Where can you find Americans still willing to say the truth? There's hardly anywhere. Even the places that do tell the truth eventually get tracked down and shut down by the big corporations. They control many if not all aspects of life, and they can mold people to think the way they want.

As young Americans, we need to think critically in order to formulate our own opinions instead of passively accepting ideas (that are mostly lies) that are broadcasted on national news. Instead of looking at topics from only one perspective, we need to strive to look at things through all perspectives. Using all perspectives can help us formulate the best decisions to guarantee success.

The truth is easier to strangle than to look in the

eyes. Although the truth is not always pretty or sugar-coated, it is something that propels humanity forward. Censorship is just another form of advertisement for the government. The government uses censorship to propel and advertise their agendas. As citizens, our job is to keep our mouths open and call out blatant lies that are being spread around like fire.

One of the greatest fallacies in democracy is that everyone's opinion is equal. However, there are many powerful people at the top that are willing to lie to you for their advantage. As young people, we need to beget a society that is truly free; one where it is safe to have unpopular opinions.

All censorship exists to prevent anyone from challenging current conceptions. But, progress is initiated by the challenging of current conceptions. It is easy to lose the ideal of liberty in a world so absent of criticism on the media. Criticism is what drives freedom; the absence of criticism is a threat to democracy and freedom. As young Americans, we need to promote a new type of journalism, one that is free from monopolization and the oligarchy. Journalists are the voice of the voiceless billions. The truth does not cease to exist simply because it is ignored. #



The Near Future

by Erika Zecena, Pleasant Hill Middle School, Second Place, Art

2023 YOUTH ACTIVIST GRANT AWARDS!

MIKALA SURMAN CAREY

— Grade 12, John Swett High School
 For her activism and leadership representing and organizing students of her school district on issues of student rights and her advocacy for social justice for all in and outside her school setting.

THE CREATIO VERITAS (CV) POETRY SLAM TEAM

— Clayton Valley High School
 For its efforts in promoting the spoken word by reaching out to youth in the community and sharing a message of anti-violence, acceptance, anti-racism, self-love and the pursuit of mental health.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTIVISM!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CHALLENGE AND ACTIVIST AWARDS!

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center also wishes to acknowledge the generous program donations received from Amneh Ma'bad Ahmed, honoring her late husband, Hisham Ahmed, Ph.D., Kathleen & Walter Barr, Thomas Brom & Gwynne Searls, and Margli & Philippe Auclair, in memory of Ian Harris, Ph.D. And for the difficult work of our judges, Bob Maxwell, Thomas Brom, Karen Perkins and Margli Auclair.



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I request an Annual Membership in the following category:

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- ◇ \$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**

Or donate any amount online at ourpeacecenter.org. **THANK YOU!**

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: _____

My Trip to Russia by Rick Sterling

In late April of this year I travelled with my author friend Dan Kovalik to Russia for eighteen days. Our goal was to see the situation in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and to visit Crimea.

We planned the trip ourselves, booking our hotels, train reservations, etc. We wandered about, meeting people at random, as well as old friends. St. Petersburg and Moscow are vibrant cities with wide sidewalks, bustling with young and old people from early morning 'til late at night. The streets are clean and safe. There is a mix of old and new architecture, all of it well-maintained. Walking the streets, we were struck by the absence of extreme poverty. In many days there, we only saw three people begging for help.

We were curious whether US sanctions have greatly damaged the Russian economy. Apparently not. We went into an upscale mall at 10 pm. Shelves were full of modern clothing, sporting goods, and merchandise. There were lots of customers. In a big plaza outside the mall, there were 20 or 30 youth listening to a rock guitarist.

Although many Russian musicians, artists and athletes have been “canceled” in the West, the culture seems to be thriving at home and elsewhere. Dan and a Russian friend went to the symphony. He was amazed at the performance.

We met a young woman who was our waitress at the hotel cafe in St. Petersburg. After her morning shift, we had coffee and talked. She was very vocal that she does not support the Russian president and she misses the “American vibe” at Starbucks, which has closed due to sanctions. The chain has been taken over and is now called “Stars.” The young waitress is studying at St. Petersburg State University, where tuition is free. She gets all her information online and through social media. She would like to visit the US, but it is difficult to get a visa.

We spent five days in Crimea, meeting people and touring sites in the beautiful peninsula on the Black Sea. History abounds. There is a valley that was a bloody venue in the Crimean War, immortalized by Tennyson with the lines, “Into the valley of death rode the six hundred.” Now, there are fields of grapes and a modern first-class winery nearby. Crimea is thriving. There is no feeling of danger or threat of war. Everyone we met was solidly pro-Russia.

We asked people about the war in Ukraine. Most people said it was sad but necessary because of escalating

NATO threats and the attacks on Russian speaking Ukrainians. Some Crimeans think that Russia waited too long before intervening.

Many explained how the Ukraine civil war began after a coup in 2014 when a government opposed to Russia was installed. That was “the last straw” that prompted Crimea to hold a referendum to secede from Ukraine. In eastern Ukraine, fourteen thousand people, mostly Russian-speaking Ukrainians, were killed in the conflict between 2014 and 2021. Crimeans we talked with said they cannot phone their friends and relatives for fear of putting them in danger as “Russian collaborators.” The Russians we talked with universally said, “Ukrainians are our brothers and sisters.”

In Yalta, we visited the palace where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin agreed on the spheres of influence following World War II. We viewed the conference table where those discussions occurred. The meeting and agreements, whatever their flaws, are immeasurably better than the current absence of communication with increasing danger of intentional or accidental nuclear war.

Russians have experienced invasion, fascism, and war. Twenty-seven million Russians died in the Nazi invasion of WWII. Crimea was occupied by Germany for almost two years. We were there on May 9 which Russians celebrate as Victory Day over Nazi Germany. Entire families go on the streets carrying enlarged photographs of their parents and grandparents who died in WWII. In the capital of Crimea, we encountered groups of teens singing patriotic songs. It is hard to imagine this occurring in the US. There is a huge difference in consciousness and concern about war, perhaps because the US has never been seriously invaded.

In a Moscow park there are statues dedicated to US-Russia friendship. They recall a period when Russia helped Abraham Lincoln in the US Civil War, and when the US helped the Soviet Union during WWII.

Most Russians we met are critical of US actions and foreign policy, but distinguish between citizens and government. If they learned we are Americans, there was no hostility. Instead, there was the explicit wish for peace and friendship. Russians want the conflict in Ukraine to be over. Some are fearful we are heading toward nuclear war.

#

Rick Sterling, a Peace Center board member, also works with Task Force on the Americas, the Syria Solidarity Network, and Voices for Justice in Palestine.

JOIN US FOR A FILM SCREENING!



Ithaka is an Australian documentary film, which depicts the incarceration of WikiLeaks founder **Julian Assange** through the experience of his wife Stella Assange and his father John Shipton.

The film premiered at the Sydney Film Festival on November 7th 2021 and won Best Documentary and Best Direction at the Capricorn Film Festival.



Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center
(at Creekside Commons / Our Savior's Lutheran)
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, California

SATURDAY, JULY 29th, 7—9 PM,
MAIN HALL—LOWER LEVEL (SECOND PARKING LOT)

Peace Center & Rossmoor Friends Members and Students: **FREE!!**
General Public: \$5 pre-registered or \$10 requested donation at door.

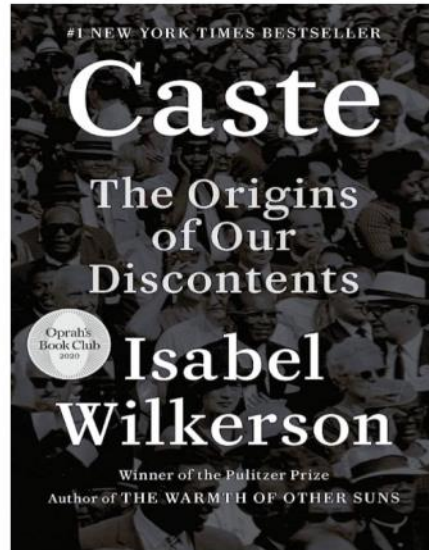
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Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center presents
 OUR DIALOGUE TO ACTION CONTINUES!
**ADDRESSING RACISM
 IN OUR HOME COMMUNITY**



**HOW DO WE
 CULTIVATE
 ANTI-RACISM?**
**JOIN WITH US AND
 FIND OUT!**

**TUESDAY, JULY 11th
 7:00 - 8:30 PM
 Mt. Diablo Peace
 & Justice Center**

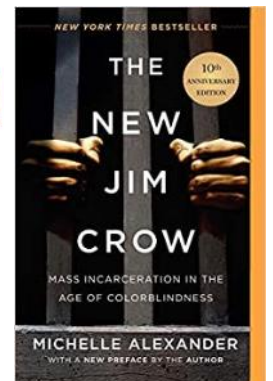
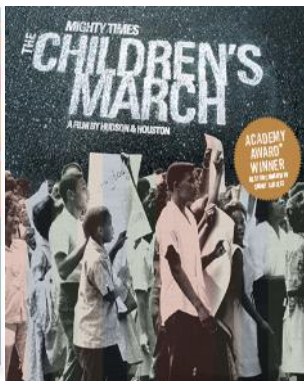
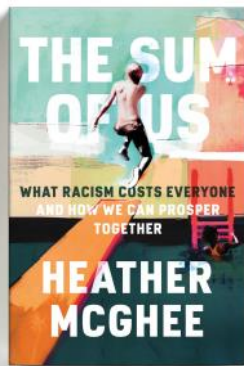
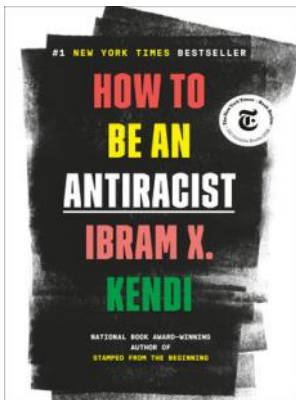
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
 (aka Creekside Commons /
 Our Savior's Lutheran)

The fourth book in our reading group series is the NYT Bestseller:

CASTE, THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS,
 BY ISABEL WILKERSON, WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE, AUTHOR OF
THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS

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. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THE BOOK AND/OR GET ON OUR DISCUSSION GROUP MAILING LIST, PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY!**
margli@ourpeacecenter.org / (925) 933-7850

**BOOKS/FILMS WE'VE REVIEWED THIS YEAR...,
 PLEASE JOIN US on TUESDAY, JULY 11th!!**





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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE PEACE CENTER!

TUESDAY, July 11th, 7—8:30 PM
Oakview Room 3
Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group on
Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents
By Isabel Wilkerson

SATURDAY, July 29th, 7—9 PM
Oakview Room 3
Documentary Film Presentation,
ITHAKA, A Fight to Free Julian Assange

THIS FALL, DATES TBD

- Membership Luncheon / Meeting
- Peace Awards Dinner

1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, California
(Creekside Commons/Our Savior's Lutheran)

More info: ourpeacecenter.org / 925-933-7850

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Contact Information

Let your voice be heard!

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(202) 456-1111

www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

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Washington DC 20510
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(916) 448-2787

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Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
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