

On Nov. 6, Jewish Voice for Peace-New York City led some 500 Jews and allies in an occupation of the Statue of Liberty to demand a ceasefire in Gaza.

PHOTO /  
ZACHARY SCHULMAN

## Ceasefire!

## The People Want Peace and Justice for All



**Migrant mom bused by TX Gov. to Chicago**

P. 8

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TNS VIA ZUMA PRESS WIRE



**Unhoused people and supporters, Sacramento Homeless Union**

P. 6

PHOTO /  
CATHLEEN WILLIAMS



**Millions flee war and climate change**

P. 4

PHOTO/UNICEF



# Welcome to the People's Tribune

The People's Tribune is a voice of millions of everyday people struggling to survive in an America in crisis. These millions are in a fight for economic and human rights, democracy, peace and a society organized for people instead of for the profits of the billionaire class. By publishing your voices, this paper helps build connections among people, and the awareness that united, we the people can create a new society and world. Send your stories to [peopletribune@gmail.com](mailto:peopletribune@gmail.com) or leave at [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org). Donations to help get the word out are welcome!

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**"This beautiful woman from Cambodia, who lives in Antioch, comes to San Francisco's Tenderloin twice a week to cook wonderful food for the street people there, for almost no money. She says if people can't afford to pay she gives it to them free. It was 83 degrees in the city that day. People are wonderful."**

CAPTION AND PHOTOS BY SARAH MENELEE

## When We Rise Up and Organize, We can Win!

By Cathy Talbott

Millenials and Gen Zs have been crucial in the defeat of extreme right-wing candidates in the 2022 midterm and in the recent 2023 state elections in states such as Ohio, Virginia, and Kentucky. Reproductive rights, protection of the LGBTQ+ community, environmental destruction and police and gun violence have motivated thousands across the country to fight to have their voices counted.

**Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights celebrate the victory for reproductive rights on the Nov.7, 2023 ballot.**

PHOTO:  
© TIFFANY BROWNING / ZUMA PRESS WIRE



Organizer and activist Tamika Mallory, co-founder of "Until Freedom" and founder of the Women's March, has been organizing in Kentucky for three years following the death of Breonna Taylor and former Attorney General Daniel Cameron's refusal to hold the police officers who killed her accountable.

Following the defeat of Republican Daniel Cameron in his bid for governor, Mallory was on the Roland Martin Show to discuss what this election win means going forward. She pointed out that it isn't about the Democratic Party, stating that she received little to no help from the Party apparatus. Instead, it's about the people and what we want and need. "When we rise up, when we organize, we can win. Going forward, what we have been able to do here in Kentucky is a model that has to be all across this nation; that we cannot just get in the streets and put boots on the ground, which is important, but we must go to the polls and use our voting power to make the final point and finish the job."

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The People's Tribune is devoted to the understanding that an economic system that doesn't feed, clothe, house, or care for its people must be and will be replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of the people. It is a voice of millions of everyday people who are fighting to survive in an America in crisis. It helps build connections among these fighters and the awareness that together, we can create a whole new society and world.

Today, technology is permanently eliminating jobs. Our needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where we the people, not the corporations, own the technology and the abundance it produces. Then, everyone's needs will be provided for.

The People's Tribune is an independent newspaper that puts a spotlight on voices of people whose activism and thoughts elevate today's movement for social transformation.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

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**Publisher:** People's Tribune  
ISSN# 1081-4787

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# UAW Strike Inspires Entire Labor Movement

*Editor's Note: Below are stories on the UAW Stand-Up Strike that were published by the People's Tribune prior to the successful ending of the strike. We include them here for their historical significance.*

The strike against the Big Three automakers was a huge gamble for the UAW. It is historic in that never before has the union targeted all of the companies, using intermittent walk-outs at various auto plants. Never before have negotiations centered on winning back what autoworkers lost during the concessions (primarily bankruptcy) era. This 'Standup Strike' is a nod to the 1937 Sit Down strike, imbuing the membership with a sense of resolve and victory.

While the strike and negotiations continued, Big Three autoworkers learned some good news. UAW President Shawn Fain announced

that GM would now guarantee future battery plants would be under the UAW Master agreement. President Fain rightfully lauded this as a transformative win. As electric cars rise and develop in the market, traditional car production will be diminished alongside manufacturing jobs. So this development will ensure that future auto workers will have economic protection. While the Big Three has secured millions of federal dollars for EV and battery production, securing wages and benefits were not a consideration until it was won at the bargaining table.

"When working class people go on strike, we can put an end to the race to the bottom. We can stop the struggle living paycheck to paycheck. We can take our lives back. We can take our time back and we can build an economy that works for the working class and for all of humanity," said President Fain.



Chicago solidarity rally at UAW Local 551.

PHOTO / SARAH-JI, LOVEANDSTRUGGLEPHOTOS.COM

## 'Our Fight is Everyone's Fight'

Excerpts from UAW President Shawn Fain's speeches:

"I chose to be sworn in when I became president on my grandmother's Bible. I take this with me a lot of places. In 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, my grandmother's parents couldn't provide for their children. So they dropped her and her brothers and sisters off at an orphanage. That orphanage gave her this Bible. Years later, my grandparents were part of the millions of families who moved to the Midwest to work for auto. My grandfather hired in Chrysler in 1937, the year the UAW organized Chrysler. I carry a check stub of his every day I go to work as a reminder of where we come from and of the battle left to fight . . .

"And today, when people want to bash our neighbors to the south, and talk about building walls, when I see economic migrants from Mexico and Central America, or any place, I see destitute human beings in search of a bet-

ter life. I see a worker that needs to be organized. I see my own grandparents. Destitution does not know borderlines. Corporate greed doesn't recognize borders. And that's why it's so critical that we unite as a working class and unite as a country, unite as a global working class to fight for justice and equality. An attack on workers anywhere is an attack on workers everywhere.

"We need a political movement that can take the principles of unionism into the streets, into city hall and beyond. That's the kind of vision we're going to need to empower the working class of this country . . .

"The UAW holds a historic place in our nation's history. And just one great example is how we came together with the Civil Rights Movement. Both are inextricably intertwined. As one movement goes, the other's going to

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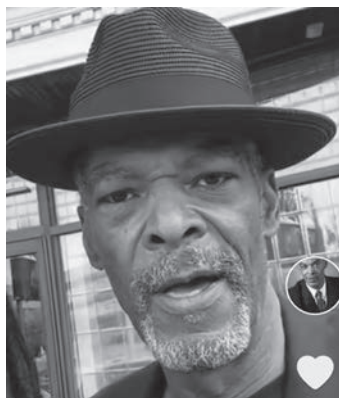


UAW President Shawn Fain addressed UAW members and supporters at rally in Detroit launching the Stand Up Strike.

TOP PHOTO AND THIS PHOTO / JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

## Eric Mays — Tik Tok Celebrity — Joins UAW Strikers

When UAW members at the General Motors (GM) processing plant in Flint, MI, were called to Stand Up (walk-out) on September 22, at Noon, they were greeted by other union members and community, including Flint Councilman Eric Mays. Mays, himself a UAW retiree, served in a number of union leadership positions during his employment at GM. Paying it forward by supporting striking workers in their quest to restore lost wages and benefits, Mays led some of the workers in a heartfelt chant: POINT OF ORDER!



PHOTOS / DONATED

go. If labor does bad, the civil rights movement struggles too. And if they struggle, we struggle. And it's no coincidence, as worker rights have gone backwards, we've seen attacks on voting right laws and everything else. It's got to end.

"Over the last decade, the Big Three have made a quarter of a trillion dollars in profits. In the last six months alone, they've made over \$21 billion in profits and the workers have been left behind. In the economy of the Big Three and the corporate class, the CEOs get everything and the workers get left behind. In their economy, workers live paycheck to paycheck while the CEOs buy another mansion. In their economy, we make all the sacrifice and they take all the profit. Their economy

has no regard for humanity. And the result of it is the great chasm between the rich and the poor over the last 40 years. It's time we return to the founders of this nation's intent of working toward the common good and public good.

"UAW family, it's our mission to turn the system of corporate greed upside down. That's what we're fighting for with our Stand Up strike. When we stand together united in the cause of economic and social justice there's no mountain we can't move. This is our generation's defining moment. And it's time for the working class to stand up and stand together. Our fight is everyone's fight. And when we stand up, the entire working class wins. Let's get to it. Join us in our fight. Our greatest protection is we have each other."



# Spectacular Miscarriage of Justice

## Door Slammed Shut on Criminal Charges in Flint Water Disaster

By People's Tribune  
Flint Correspondents

Just when we thought things could not get any worse, the long suffering and embattled residents of Flint were served some devastating news. The Michigan Supreme Court refused to hear a last gasp effort by the Michigan Attorney General to bring criminal charges against former Governor Rick Snyder for the role he and others played in the 2014 poisoning of the city. This after 7 years and \$60 million dollars later. Former Governor Snyder, top aid Rich Baird, and State Health Dept. Director Nick Lyons along with eight others are now set free.

In June of 2019, residents, as well as the nation, were stunned when the then newly elected Attorney General Dana Nessel dropped all of the criminal charges claiming there were “problems” with the previous investigations of former Special Prosecutor Todd Flood. There were red flags then. But the Flint Community who cried foul were still hopeful that justice would be served.

With almost 10 years of the crisis, having dealt with death, health challenges, Legionella, children’s social emotional trauma along with learning disabilities — this failure of the judicial system is unforgivable.

Resilient as we are, Flint residents will not give up on being made whole.



Michigan Attorney General  
Dana Nessel



Chief Dep AG Fadwa Hammoud



Prosecutor Kym Worth

Michigan prosecutorial team who failed Flint.

PHOTOS / FACEBOOK

## War! Who is it Good for in the Time of Global Warming?

By Georgia de la Garza

Reports in their dossiers, letters, and memos released in 2014 and 2015 proved fossil fuel executives knew for a couple of decades coal, oil, and natural gas are harmful to people and are treacherously increasing climate change.

With overwhelming evidence, it is hard for fossil fuel companies to continue to deny their involvement in the harm they are doing to people and the climate. Many of these energy oligarchs continue campaigns to deceive the public and pour millions of dollars into lobbying to spread propaganda about climate science and climate policy.

At a time when globally, we should be transitioning to renewable energies at high speed, we are ramping up to extract more fossil fuels by 2030. The United States, Russia, and Saudi Arabia will be drilling for coal, gas, and oil, surpassing extractions in any other time in history.

“Governments are literally doubling down on fossil fuel production; that spells double trouble for people and planet,” said António Guterres, the United Nations secretary general, “We cannot address climate catastrophe without tackling its root cause: fossil fuel dependence.”

The IPCC’s (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) years of reporting climate science and adaptation studies that have been largely ignored, assess impacts and vulnerabilities. Science confirms the evidence that extreme weather we have been experiencing — droughts, floods, forest fires, locust plagues,

environmental degradation — and very poor leadership, has created dire straits for tens of millions of people, giving them no choice but to migrate to survive. We are witnessing mass displacement across the globe.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre the number of people displaced by climate disasters, conflict, and violence continues to reach unprecedented levels. Vulnerable communities and countries under attack from wars for corporate ownership of resources are living with the worst impacts. We need to work more urgently on adaptation action, especially with those who are most vulnerable.

“It’s looking really dire,” said Niklas Hagelberg, the U.N. Environment Program’s global coordinator for climate change. “We’re really on life support here.”

There is a wide void of adaptation action taken and what lower income populations need. We are looking at billions of people in highly vulnerable hotspots as they are called, like Africa, South Asia, South and Central America, developed Islands, and even the United States. Recently, we are suffering with the witness of genocide and settler colonization, where an existing society is replaced with the society of the colonizers. This is happening in Palestine and other countries, all rich with cobalt, coal, uranium, natural gas, and oil.

Food security, clean water, healthy soil, breathable air, and peace, the very things all living beings need to survive, are being decimated by greed for wealth and power. Our dehumanization is in blatant view.



Children at a migrant camp in Syria. Today millions of families are displaced by war and climate.

PHOTO / UNICEF

## Rep. Summer Lee Calls Out Govt Military Spending Plan

Congresswoman Summer Lee (D-PA) recently voted ‘No’ on a bill to give \$14 billion in military aid to Israel while cutting \$14 billion from the IRS budget. She said cutting the IRS budget would undermine the agency’s plan to go after wealthy tax dodgers, and would raise the federal budget deficit by \$90 billion over 10 years. She said the Republicans’ plan would exploit the war in Palestine to make it easier

for large corporations and billionaires to cheat on their taxes, and she urged Congress and the administration to prioritize diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and meeting the needs of the American people.

“I refuse to spend more money on weapons of war and tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy at the expense of children in Pennsylvania, Gaza, and Israel when what is needed now is

investment in American families, de-escalation of violence, diplomacy, and humanitarian aid,” Lee said in a press release. Read the full story in the online People’s Tribune at <https://bit.ly/3u7SieU>.

Congresswoman Summer Lee  
PHOTO/ SUMMER LEE/FACEBOOK





# Voices Demanding a Ceasefire NOW!

Hundreds of thousands of people in U.S. cities have been in our streets demanding a ceasefire in Gaza NOW. Many risk their livelihoods protesting U.S. policy. Excerpts below express their passions for a peaceful world for all.

“I want people to see that Jews say ‘no’ to the inhuman cruelty we are seeing in Gaza. I want them to know that Jews see fighting antisemitism, Islamophobia, and for Palestinian lives are all part of the same fight.” —*Jodi Melamed, co-coordinator of Jewish Voice for Peace in Milwaukee at a Chicago protest of over 1000 people who shut down a train station. (Truthout.org)*

“This moment is redefining our world . . . we will work with our Jewish, Christian, and Hindu brothers and sisters. This isn’t just a Muslim issue. It’s a people issue. It’s a human issue, and many organizations and entities of multiple faiths join us . . . Hopefully, the message will go out that our elected officials must represent us, not the lobbies whose vested interest is in promoting war.” *Dr. Laura Badwan is on the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF) Medical Advisory Board and was the featured speaker at a protest of 200 doctors and nurses. (Streets of Atlanta)*

“We can’t stand idly by while the U.S. government continues to send weapons and

military aid with the tax dollars that would be better spent addressing the root causes of violence . . . And we need more fighting unions across the country to join us in this movement.” *Jackson Potter, VP, Chicago Teachers Union (Truthout.org)*

“My hope is to push back on the culture of fear around this issue,” said Abdallah Fayyad, a 2022 Pulitzer Prize finalist and former editorial board member at the Boston Globe about an open letter more than 900 journalists from dozens of news organizations signed condemning Israel’s killing of reporters in Gaza and criticizing Western media’s coverage of the war “and to make decision-makers and reporters and editors think twice about the language they use.” See <https://www.protect-journalists.com/>

“Our constituents are pleading for a ceasefire, and we are the staffers answering their calls. Most of our bosses on Capitol Hill are not listening to the people they represent. We demand our leaders speak up: call for a ceasefire, a release of all hostages, and an immediate de-escalation now,” said the organizer of more than 100 Congressional staffers in a protest in front of the Capitol.

## Why Is the U.S. Shamefully Resisting a Ceasefire in Gaza?

**Bob Lee**

As this article is written, a “humanitarian pause” is in effect in Gaza, allowing prisoner exchanges, but Israel has said there will be no ceasefire, that its assault on Gaza will continue after the pause ends. Killings and arrests of Palestinians in the West Bank continue. So far, over 15,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including over 6,150 children, and 36,000 are wounded. After Israel bombed Gaza’s Al-Shifa Hospital, children there told reporters, “We come now to shout [to the world] and invite you to protect us....We want to live as the other children live.”

Meanwhile, a young woman approached Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren recently while Warren was dining in a restaurant. She told Warren, “I’m a refugee from Gaza. Sixty-eight members of my family have been killed in the past three weeks. How many more of them have to die before you will call for a ceasefire?” Warren had no answer.

Anyone with a brain and a heart can see that a permanent ceasefire is necessary, and the U.S. can impose it on Israel, given Israel’s dependence on U.S. money, weapons and

military protection. Why won’t Biden and the majority in Congress demand a ceasefire? It’s because Israel was created in part on behalf of American and European corporations and billionaires to further their interests in the Middle East. This meant colonizing Palestine. The Middle East is important to the U.S. because it is a crossroads of the world between profitable markets in Asia, Africa and Europe, and because it is rich in oil (including oil and gas under Gaza). The profits for U.S. oil companies are immense, and just as importantly, the U.S. uses the control of oil and the sale of weapons as a means of controlling countries across the world. The U.S. can also use Israel as a base for its own military interventions. And the U.S. weapons sales to Israel are another source of profit. As Biden said as a young senator years ago, “If Israel didn’t exist we’d have to invent it.”

But pressure is mounting to stop the mass killings of the Palestinian people. Some U.S. and UN officials have resigned in protest at the slaughter. Huge demonstrations are taking place across the world. People have marched, blocked traffic, occupied buildings, confronted Biden at public events, disrupted

Jewish Voice for Peace occupies the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty on November 6, 2023, New York City. PHOTO / ZACHARY SCHULMAN



Protest for a ceasefire of 10,000 people in Austin, TX on Nov. 12. PHOTO / KAREL RILEY

One of Chicago’s many large protests, Oct. 18, 2023 PHOTO / SARAH-JI RHEE, LOVEANDSTRUGGLEPHOTOS.COM

congressional hearings, and blocked the loading of weapons on to ships. Some Israelis have also taken a stand against Israel’s war crimes. Belgium and Spain have called for a war crimes investigation, and Belgium is considering “recognizing the State of Palestine.” At a demonstration confronting Biden in Chicago, one woman said, “My Jewish blood and my Jewish soul compel me to stand up and come here today and tell President Biden that we need a ceasefire now and anything else is immoral.” Progressive youth groups have warned Biden he will lose millions of youth votes. Of course,

support for Biden among Arab-Americans and Muslims has evaporated.

As well as a fight to stop the massacre and finally liberate the Palestinians, this is a fight to prevent a war that could end the world, and a fight for democracy. The people have to win. We want everyone’s children to be safe and free, in the Middle East and everywhere else. The fight in Palestine is a critical battle in the fight to save humanity. We have to take the world away from the corporations and the billionaires whose greed and empire-building have brought us to the edge of the abyss.

Articles in this print edition  
can be shared from [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org)



# First They Came for the Homeless

By Gloria A Lighthouse

In March 2024 Gov. Gavin Newsom will put before California voters a ballot measure authorizing \$6.4 billion in taxpayer-funded bonds to build behavioral health treatment facilities, mainly for mentally ill unhoused persons. The measure will permit spending on unlocked community-based facilities as well as on locked psychiatric facilities.

On October 10, Newsom signed Senate Bill 43. Working in tandem with his newly created CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment) Court, the bill expands the criteria for involuntary detention and court-ordered medical treatment for people diagnosed as mentally incompetent by a behavioral healthcare professional. The bill was sponsored by psychiatric organizations and other healthcare professionals, with the aim of getting thousands of mentally ill unhoused people off the streets and into court-mandated treatment. Both legislative houses approved the measure unanimously, over the objections of disability and civil rights advocates, who argued that the CARE Court program “violates essential constitutional guarantees of due process while needlessly burdening fundamental rights to privacy, autonomy and liberty.” SB 43 takes effect in January.

The bill expands the eligibility of a disabled person for participation in the CARE Court program. Someone must be “gravely disabled,” unable to provide for their food, clothing and shelter, and unable to seek medical care and keep themselves safe and would include severely mentally ill persons, and those with drug or alcohol substance abuse issues. Family members, roommates, landlords, police officers, neighbors, community members, street outreach teams, paramedics, or healthcare providers will be able to file a petition with the CARE Court program — backed by a behavioral health clinician — to recommend involuntary detention and coerced medication and treatment. Refusal to accept such would result in judicially ordered conservatorship for the legally declared mentally incompetent person, an arrangement whereby a conservator is appointed to take over the conservatee’s finances and make health decisions for them, overseeing the dispensing of meds and psychiatric treatment. Those in the CARE Court program are generally confined to a

psychiatric facility. The fly in the CARE Court ointment is the lack of treatment beds in hospitals or psychiatric facilities. But not to worry — Gov. Newsom to the rescue again, proposing to transform the 3,000 bed San Quentin State Prison into San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, ostensibly to give inmates access to educational programs, to prepare them for life on the outside. The governor has shut down three prisons as the inmate population shrinks — drug offenders and nonviolent criminals having been released. Cutbacks are planned for six more prisons across the state. There are presently 15,000 empty prison beds, a number that is expected to grow. In 2022 there were an estimated 172,000 unhoused people statewide, another growing number.

Beginning this past June, in violation of the Brown Act, Newsom conducted several closed door meetings with a secret 21-member advisory council he selected to discuss reforms for prisons across the state. The governor has not sought lawmakers input, the process being termed a “black hole” for the public, according to Thanh Tran, of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. The governor has given “unfettered power to this advisory council that is allowed to meet in secret, and we are boxed out,” he said.

The San Quentin campus would cost \$360 million. Budget lawmakers unsuccessfully sought to hold public meetings and to mandate the administration to provide them with updates, but these accountability provisions were cut out.

Newsom wants the San Quentin renovation complete by Dec. 2025, just before he leaves office. In nearby Larkspur, 135 units of workforce housing will be built, supposedly for Marin school staffers, and perhaps to house staff for the San Quentin campus. Groundbreaking is scheduled for early 2025 and perhaps completed by Dec., 2025, thereby freeing the governor to run for the U.S. presidency, having accomplished not housing for the criminalized homeless, but for their incarceration — a huge feather in the cap of our hero.

**Fascism:** “... a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition.” — *Webster’s Dictionary*



Dachau concentration camp, 1933. The first step was dehumanizing those who were rounded up. Could the homeless be next?

## No FEMA camps for the homeless

By Mike Zint

*Editor’s note: The piece below was written by homeless organizer Mike Zint, co-founder (with myself) of ‘First they came for the homeless’, during the presidency of Donald Trump, who was threatening to sweep houseless people into military-run camps. Similar plans are now being proposed by politicians from both parties. Mike died of COPD in early 2020, but his words were prophetic and his brilliant organizing far-reaching.* — Sarah Menefee, People’s Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The President of the United States has threatened homeless people. He has threatened their possessions. He has threatened their ability to care for themselves as they choose to. He is threatening to use government backed facilities to house them. He is not issuing an executive order for the needed housing. He is not funding the needed housing in a budget. He is going to raze camps instead.

The founding members all had the same fear: FEMA camps. It was a topic of discussion

every day when we were doing the 9 month occupation of the Federal Reserve. That occupation had many hundreds of homeless people stopping through. All of them joined in the discussion and agreed it was coming.

When we formed ‘First they came for the homeless’ we were very picky on our name and image messaging. We were trying to send a warning and a wake-up call. The truth is, homeless, seniors and disabled are not profitable. They are useless eaters. They will be the first to go into a warehouse full of other useless eaters.

A billionaire who has never needed a thing in his life said he was going to raze homeless camps. Inherited money made him. Not ability. Not life challenges that normal people experience. Not our reality. His daddy’s money.

He has started us down the path that leaves us no choice but to put a call to action out. Make and display signs saying “no FEMA camps for the homeless.” It’s easy and quick. If enough people do it and spread the idea, perhaps the President will back the hell off.



The late Mike Zint in his tent in the ‘First they came for the homeless’ camp and base of operations, established after 18 protest locations and sweeps.

Sacramento Homeless Union Leader Crystal Sanchez asks: “What if They Got It All Wrong?” She writes, “There are 22,000 people on the streets of Sacramento; this is the reality they live and die in. Millions of dollars are funded to help, but with what progress? As long as we criminalize survival with no true solutions we will continue to increase homelessness. Getting on extensive waiting lists in a crisis is like putting a band-aid on a bleed-out situation. Can we create a place we can all thrive and be healthy together?” Read her full story on-line at <https://bit.ly/3G2GM7a/>



Crystal Sanchez [front right] says “Union members stand together in solidarity in their community.” PHOTO / SACRAMENTO HOMELESS UNION

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# ‘The Greatest Lesson I’ve Learned Out Here’

## *An Interview with Homeless Woman ‘Freeway’*

By Freeway

*Editor’s note from Sarah Menefee: I did this interview with a very articulate woman who calls herself ‘Freeway’ – so named by her husband because she never stops moving ahead – who is homeless and a former resident of the large tent community in a park on Wood St. in West Oakland. It is an area under gentrification where hundreds of people who lived there and supported each other were displaced in hotly resisted sweeps that destroyed the community and scattered its people. The occasion below was an action in which signs were hung on a chain link fence in the park.*

OAKLAND, CA — We’re finishing up the park clean-up today. This was a quickly pulled-together event because some neighbors bonded together to try to demonize us, particularly from people in those condos across the street. They are in some glorified hate groups. They even complained about the sawdust from the wood art my husband creates!

We’ll be doing this again. The city hasn’t responded to appeals for help. We’re just in the works to get a contract with a company for trash removal. Carroll Fife [Oakland Councilmember and founding member of Moms 4 Housing] has a community organization that comes to the camps to help with cleaning, rather than the DPW [Department of Public

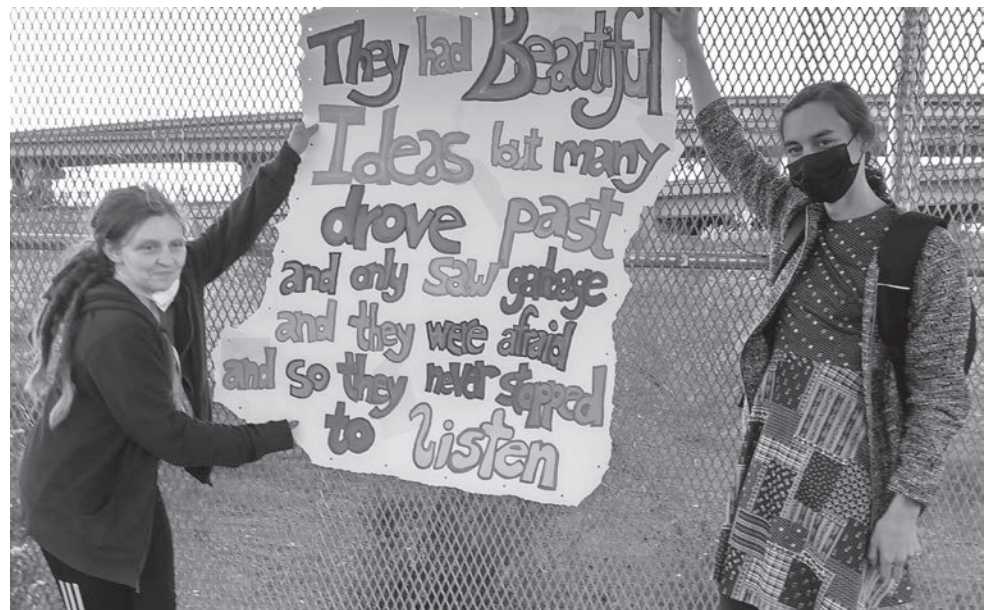
Works] destroying and stealing property. This poster hanging came as a result of some people who just wanted us out of sight.

I’ve learned so much living out here. There’s no college course that could have taught me what I learned. The greatest lesson I’ve learned out here is gratitude. The bad things are something to be grateful for too, they grant us a point of reference to compare.

We had to deal with some tragic losses. I’ve come to the reality that people are complaining because they feel uncomfortable. Your comfort should not come at the expense of my safety. It’s no different than the racism of the 1950’s. They even complain about the people who feed our children!

We did a bike ride to Sacramento to get the government to push through some good legislation. The East Bay Community Law Center is working with us, trying to put together proposals to help the situation, not continue to traumatize us.

There was an established community on Wood Street, and they dispersed us. I was in one of the tiny cabins they set up for some of us, but I got assaulted there, with no help, then I’m back out on the street. They showed up and said, “We only have a place in East Oakland”, but without my husband. There are no shelters for clean and sober living, so shelters



‘Freeway’ (on the left) and another woman hang a sign of community support on a fence in the park in West Oakland where the large Wood Street Commons tent community used to stand. The community has been destroyed by the City of Oakland.

are no answer for people trying to avoid drugs. People are traumatized over and over again. We have no access to resources or services. It’s a wonder people are as peaceful as they are and not burning the city down!

All these sweeps and evictions cost the city \$100,000 a day, minimum. They had just about

every cop in the department down there. The City of Oakland has been given \$34 million to “deal with” us. The cops and poverty pimps are getting it all. The director of the cabins project drives a Maserati to the site, but he’s notorious for saying “We don’t have money for this or that” to help the people.

## Bring Chicago Home

By Kathy Powers

CHICAGO — Over 68,000 Chicagoans are experiencing homelessness on the streets, in shelters, or living doubled-up. Bring Chicago Home was born out of the growing need to address the housing and homelessness crisis in a real and meaningful way because when people get housed, we want them to stay housed. The best way to tackle this challenge is to strategically invest resources in permanent housing with wraparound supportive services.

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, Chicago’s City Council approved the Bring Chicago Home binding referendum. It will appear on

the March 2024 ballot when Chicago voters will decide whether they want to increase the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) on home sales of over \$1 million to create a dedicated source of funding for preventing and ending homelessness in Chicago.

The RETT is a small, one-time tax paid by the buyer when a property is sold. It is estimated to generate at least \$100 million every year. It would be legally dedicated to programs that alleviate homelessness, including assistance for children, veterans, and those fleeing gender-based violence.

**No matter who we are, we all need a home!**



Bring Chicago Home activists rally at Chicago Realtors Assoc. at 430 N. Michigan Ave.

PHOTO / KATHY POWERS

## Viewpoints of the Long Unhoused

*From a suite of poems and drawings by unhoused poet and artist Linda Stevens.*

### To end the agony

We couldn’t even rent a tent because \$\$\$ wasn’t heaven sent what ‘crumbs’ we get are soon spent

Everyone thinks if you live in a car U-R beyond BIZARRE!

as you drive your worrisome load slowly down the road

wondering if the train station without a destination

will be the only SOLUTION to end agony of street noise pollution

Noise is in every overnight neighborhood And the hell it puts on our health isn’t good

I’ve really after all this time lost hope I’m more than at the end of my rope

Only San Francisco can relate Like no other city!

We have the most unhoused here And in addition to being perpetually perishing

On the pavement And croaking curbside style

By Linda Stevens

“I’m homeless for over 30 years because there aren’t affordable rents. I’m 60. People should go to government offices and say, ‘You don’t throw seniors away to the streets. Get us housed!’” — Linda Stevens





# Chicago Can Be a Welcoming Sanctuary City

By Kathy Powers

CHICAGO, IL — Mayor Harold Washington issued an executive order that declared Chicago a sanctuary city in 1985. This Sanctuary City Ordinance refers to law enforcement and government officials not cooperating with ICE. The City will not ask about one's immigration status, disclose that information to authorities, or deny one city services based upon one's immigration status.

It does not refer to the resettlement of over 21,000 migrants who have arrived from Texas and Florida since last August.

## MISPLACED ANGER

Some folks are angry at the migrants for being here and, in their view, draining our resources. It is understandable why people are frustrated, however, the migrants are not the austerity imposers. Our elected officials do not fund enough resources for the public. They have become handmaidens for the profit-making corporations leaving us with food

deserts, underfunded public schools, shuttered mental health clinics, and over 68,000 Chicagoans without housing. This is not the fault of the migrants. There should be enough for everybody.

False narratives fill communities that the migrants are dangerous. In fact, the migrants are wafer thin and can barely stand up from the ordeals they've been through to survive the harsh journey here.

On September 20, 2023, certain migrants in the U.S. were granted temporary protected status for 18 months, and about 472,000 individuals became eligible to get work permits. That will help. Most came here with the idea of working and living the American Dream. They do not want to live on charity. They have an unlivable homeland.

## NO PLANNING

There has been no organized plan for the migrants' resettlement. Their placement has been decided behind closed doors. There are nearly 2,800 migrants awaiting shelter place-

ment in Chicago police stations and tents. They were placed like chess pawns without regard to their needs or the community's capacity to support them.

The City of Chicago can do a much better job in providing services to all. As a *welcoming* sanctuary city, it's really up to the community. The migrants are now a part of our community. They are just people who have skills, talents, and diverse experience. They want to work. They want to belong. They want a place to call home.

## NEXT STEPS

We need to adapt and start taking care of our new neighbors, and *everyone* in Chicago who needs help. The cruel austerity imposed upon us has led us to think mostly of taking care of number one. It would be a blessing to take care of one another. It's for all of us; what's good for you is good for me. The migrants are not taking away from us. In fact, they offer us an opportunity to regain the spirit of helping one another.



Many migrant families shelter on floors of Chicago police stations.

VIDEO STILL / CBS

## Read more thought-provoking articles at [peopletribune.org](https://peopletribune.org). See excerpts below:

**The 'Open Border' Farce**, by writer and journalist Todd Miller: The Biden administration is setting a new record for paying border corporations—while *waiving 26 laws protecting people and the planet—including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act—to put up a new section of border wall in Starr County, Texas.*

### Read here:

<https://peopletribune.org/2023/11/the-open-border-farce/>



PHOTO / WIKIPEDIA



**More than 18,000 Mississippi Children Kicked Off Medicaid**, by health care advocate Ashley White Jones and Dr. Robert James, first published in the Mississippi Free Press:

Why isn't the State ensuring more Mississippians in need have Medicaid, not fewer. Why wouldn't the state expand Medicaid instead of putting people on a pay-for-service program to save money. It's cruel to refuse federal funds that would provide coverage to hundreds of thousands of working Mississippians without health coverage, that would bring an estimated \$1.5 billion in new revenue annually, while creating jobs, help keep struggling hospitals from closing, and save lives.

### Read here:

<https://peopletribune.org/2023/11/more-than-18000-mississippi-children-kicked-off-medicaid/>

PHOTO / MSFP

**Brave Voices Speak Out for Peace, Defying a New McCarthyism**, by writer Chris Mahin:

A concerted effort is underway to use the Gaza crisis to further limit what people are allowed to say at work or on their workplace social media and to punish those who challenge the status quo. This is extremely dangerous and is setting a terrible precedent which will curtail discussion and debate on many issues other than U.S. policy in the Middle East.

### Read here:

<https://peopletribune.org/2023/11/brave-voices-speak-out-for-peace-defying-a-new-mccarthyism/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/ceasefirenow>



PHOTO / CHRIS MAHIN



**Four Senior Women Arrested for Blocking Entrance to 'Cop City'**, by journalist Gloria Tatum of Streets of Atlanta:

The latest warriors to save Atlanta's Weelaunee forest and stop 'Cop City' are four elder women. All four courageously sat in chairs holding a banner in front of a Cop City construction site and refused to move. The women say people should decide the fate of the forest, not the Mayor, Atlanta City Council, or the Atlanta Police Foundation. A petition for a public vote signed by 116,000 voters is being ignored by the Mayor and City Council. Police picked up the unmovable four and carried them to patrol cars.

### Read here:

<https://peopletribune.org/2023/11/four-senior-women-arrested-for-blocking-entrance-to-cop-city/>

PHOTO / GLORIA TATUM