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This special edition of the People's Tribune focuses on the heroic efforts of those among us who suffer from and fight the growing poverty, horrors of homelessness, heartless immigration policies, and limited government aid for housing, medical care, and hunger. Demonized by politicians, blamed for the systemic economic crisis affecting us all, these individuals and groups are immediate targets of anti-humanity laws that eliminate freedoms like the right to sit or lie in public places and the right to asylum. As this new movement works to unify us all in defense of democracy, their demand is for a society that cares for each of us. They ask why so many are homeless and hungry when so much wealth is in the hands of the few. They know there's plenty of money to go around, but it's going to the big corporations and billionaires who benefit from our war economy, oil subsidies, and militarization of borders. Everyone's needs can be met. Congress and the president are responsible for ensuring peace and prosperity for ALL, not poverty and war, and we should hold them accountable.

Welcome! The People's Tribune is an independent media platform that informs, educates, and works hand in hand with movements for a society that is truly of, by and for the people. We dedicate our platform to those voices for change that are not being heard in mainstream media. Send your stories! Visit peopletribune.org where all of our articles are available. Like, Share and Subscribe! Donate! — *The Editors*

No More Deaths on the Streets!



Sacramento Homeless Union memorial for all who died unhoused in 2023. PHOTO / SAC-EJC.ORG

By **Crystal Sanchez**,
President, Sacramento Chapter,
National Homeless Union

As we stand side by side, on this Winter solstice night [December, 2023], we mourn the unhoused who have died on our streets. This memorial is a reminder of the cruel reality that there are those of us who find ourselves unhoused, living on the streets, and without any of the comfort and support so many of us take for granted. As we approach Spring, with storms and cold weather everywhere, we remember the words that memorialized those who died in the streets across this nation. One person living on the streets in the fourth-largest economy in the world is unacceptable. One person dying on our streets is a sin, immoral, and an injustice. We are all tired, as this fight has had us on a hamster wheel of devastation and loss for years. Let us not allow these neighbors' deaths to be in vain, to just be a counted memory. My hope for next year is that we all come together in action to kick in the doors of injustice in the name of those we have lost to these streets! Together we end homelessness, and together we end death on the streets. I'm gonna say, 'Too much cold too much heat! ... You're gonna say 'No more death on our streets!'

Editor's note: The above are excerpts from the full story at <https://peopletribune.org/2023/12/no-more-death-on-our-streets/>

Eric Mays: Flint Firebrand Passes Away

A little of us died with him

Statement courtesy of
Flint Democracy Defense League

When we learned of the death of Flint Councilman Eric Mays, we can sincerely say a little of us died with him. A larger-than-life figure, Mays was dubbed "the voice", not only for his deep baritone, but for his relentless pursuit of social justice. We Flintstones are known for courage, tenacity, a strong sense of social justice, outspokenness, and a heart for humanity. Eric Mays embodied it all. As one who pursued our causes, he took the fight to the legislature (as a three-time elected Councilman), the courts, and the streets. During the last couple of years, the Councilman found himself at the center of a social media firestorm. His take-no-prisoners and sometimes comedic style blew up especially on TikTok. Followers around the country and indeed the world kept in tune with Flint because of Eric. He was invited to speak all over the country, by African Americans, Whites, Democrats and Republicans alike. Millions of young people adored him. His newfound fame was never sought by him, but hap-



pened organically as his fighting spirit attracted millions. As Councilman Mays would say, "God bless the residents of the city of Flint." Gone But Not Forgotten . . .

At the U.S.-Mexico Border: Fight Against SB4 Continues

By **People's Tribune**

The movement against Texas' SB4 law continues to grow, undeterred by a contested U.S. Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for the law to take effect. SB4 allows Texas police to arrest and deport people they "suspect" are in Texas illegally. Mexico calls the law a violation of human rights, saying it encourages separation of families and racism, and that they will not accept the deportees. The Border Network for Human Rights called SB4 "a clear usurpation of federal authority to enforce immigration laws" that will "drive the state of Texas into a human and civil rights disaster." In January near Eagle Pass, a woman and her

children drowned crossing the Rio Grande. A few weeks later, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott held a press conference at Eagle Pass to promote his anti-humanity agenda, which includes both SB4 and further militarizing the border. The Eagle Pass Border Coalition protested his visit, demanding that state money be spent helping their impoverished community rather than on militarizing the border. With aid, the group says, their community could also help the asylum seekers. "We see a future in which our Fronterizo community is no longer isolated or voiceless from state or federal decision-making affecting our home, where we have an active role in the evolution of our community," said the Border Coalition.



PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

The People's Tribune is an independent media platform that informs, educates, and works hand in hand with movements for a society that is truly of, by and for the people. We dedicate our platform to those voices for change that are not being heard in mainstream media. This paper strives to be a voice of millions of everyday people who are standing up to challenge a system that breeds poverty, injustice and war, and threatens Mother Earth. All the people's needs can be met by building a cooperative society where the technology and abundance it produces is publicly owned and available to all.

We welcome articles and artwork from those that are engaged in the struggle to build a new society. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

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Articles that are unsigned, such as the editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

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Facts Refute the Lies Told About Immigrants

By Bob Lee

As the electoral battles heat up, we see more lurid headlines about undocumented immigrants being “more likely to commit crimes,” along with stories about immigrants supposedly taking jobs and resources away from people already in the U.S. What are the facts?

“In a recent Pew Research Center report about the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border, 57% of Americans say the large number of migrants seeking to enter the country leads to more crime,” CNN’s Catherine E. Shoichet noted in an article posted on Feb. 27. But, she said, this idea “flies in the face of years of studies looking at what actually happened after immigrants came to communities across the U.S. Many researchers crunching the numbers have found there’s no connection between immigration and crime. Some have even found that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than people born in the U.S.”

Alex Nowrasteh of the libertarian Cato In-

stitute wrote on March 6 that his own recent research into homicides allegedly committed by undocumented immigrants in Texas “showed that illegal immigrants have lower criminal conviction and arrest rates than native born Americans and that legal immigrants had the lowest of all.”

Meanwhile Daniel Costa and Heidi Shierholz of the Economic Policy Institute on Feb. 20 refuted the idea that immigrants are taking jobs away from U.S.-born workers. They wrote, “The reality is that the economy does not have a fixed number of jobs, and what we see today is a growing economy that is adding jobs for both immigrants and U.S.-born workers.” They cite what they call “key facts that show immigrants are not hurting the employment outcomes of U.S.-born workers.” These include:

“The (official) unemployment rate for U.S.-born workers averaged 3.6% in 2023, the lowest rate on record. Obviously, immigration is not causing high unemployment among U.S.-

born workers.

“The share of prime-age (ages 25–54) U.S.-born individuals with a job is at its highest rate in more than two decades.

“Though the immigrant *share* of the labor force reached a record high in 2023, immigrant labor force *growth* is not occurring at an unprecedented rate.

“Immigrants are an integral part of our labor market, filling gaps caused by demographic changes in the United States and contributing to strong economic growth. The immigrants that make up 18.6% of the U.S. labor force are playing key roles in numerous industries and are employed in a mix of lower, middle, and higher-wage jobs.”

Ignore the lies and instead, ask why so many people in the U.S. and other countries are homeless and hungry when so much wealth is in the hands of the few? There’s power in numbers. Our hope lies in our unity.



Rally in Athens, GA in support of immigrants calls for love, not hate following the death of Univ. of Georgia student Laken Riley. An immigrant man, Jose Antonio Ibarra, was charged in her death and anti-immigrant forces are using her death to stir up hatred of immigrants.

PHOTO / STILL, FOX 5 ATLANTA VIDEO

Talkin' 'bout a Revolution

By Gloria A Lighthouse

SAN FRANCISCO — A recent People’s Tribune visit to the Tenderloin revealed the community to be a patchwork of smaller communities, with blocks of varying scenes. We did not tour the neighborhood, but confined ourselves to the much maligned blocks where the poorest of the poor congregate. The COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown, shuttering of businesses, and subsequent loss of employment, income and housing put thousands of San Franciscans out on the street, such being reflected nationally as well as globally. In some areas not one tree, not one blade of grass was evident.

We did not find many sidewalk tents, but we did find some blocks lined with mostly apparently unhoused men, and a few women. Some just hung out and socialized, sitting in portable chairs, some sitting directly on the sidewalk, backs propped against the building.

And always there was the flow of sidewalk traffic, various and sundry everyday people going about their daily lives. There was the blare of loud music varying block to block, blasting hip-hop, or on another block Earth Wind and Fire. There were no porta potties, the most basic accommodations dehumanizingly denied, resulting in a urine-soaked sidewalk area.

Yet, in the midst of the blatantly visible de-

cline of Western civilization, semblances of normalcy struggled to be. Two men seated on crates played chess. A few Asian women conducted sidewalk sales — children’s clothing neatly folded and displayed on a tablecloth on the sidewalk, along with miscellaneous household items.

And to be sure, there were places where the so-called and much criticized “open air drug use” was visible — glass pipes and telltale little foil packets of fentanyl or meth. They should perhaps do drugs in the privacy of homes they do not have? It was mid-afternoon and some were getting a jump start on Happy Hour. Malt liquor was in evidence as were short shot mini-bottles of rum or other libations — alcohol and drugs being coping mechanisms for those who’d come to realize that they’d been discarded, that there was no employment, no housing, that there was no use for them. Having lost their purpose in life, they could see no future — hopes and dreams vanished in the glaring reality of the challenges of daily survival, sitting in limbo — refugees in their own country.

And what might be the fate of the Tenderloin and its inhabitants? Having been turned into a slum, gentrification looms ripe for Big Real Estate “development.” The City’s not-so-benign neglect of Tenderloin residents sets them up for removal.

There but for fortune go you and I.



This beautiful woman comes to San Francisco’s Tenderloin to cook wonderful food for the street people. She says, “If people can’t afford to pay, I give it to them free.”

CAPTION / SARAH MENEFFEE, PHOTO / SANDY REID

Stop Criminalizing the Homeless for Being Homeless!

As encampments of the unhoused are being destroyed, the criminalization of homelessness is headed to the U.S. Supreme Court. On April 22, the Court will hear Johnson v. Grants Pass, the most significant Supreme Court case about homelessness criminalization and the rights of homeless people in decades. It will

decide if cities can punish people for sleeping outside with a pillow or blanket, even when there are no shelter options. “They’re not going to give me a quarter, nickel, dime — nothing — just say get out!” said James, an unhoused man, ordered to sweep his encampment in 72 hours. Freeway, a woman from

the dismantled Oakland Wood Street Commons, said, people we love are deteriorating every single day. “We’ve lost 12 people since the evictions. The restrictive policies the government is imposing on us is class warfare. When we’re fighting the fight, try to keep the 12 in your heart and have compassion.”

Housing Now!

Join the movement that knows housing solves homelessness! See Supreme Court hearings, go to: johnsonvgrantspass.com/how-you-can-help

U.S. Vet says Israel Targets Gaza Civilians on Purpose

“We have technology that we can see exactly who is in these locations and buildings. So they are targeting and bombing homes, knowing who and how many children were exactly inside. My name is Josephine Guilbeau. I am a 17-year Army veteran. I recently got out of the military last year. Having that background as an intelligence officer and understanding what defense actually is, I can see clearly that this is not self-defense. The civilian casualties are catastrophic. They are targeting homes filled with children. The elite that sit

in Capitol Hill sit there and lie over and over and over. I just want to highlight one of the biggest awakenings that I think I’ve had the last few weeks coming here and lobbying with the senators and congressmen. That is that I realize just how corrupt our government is. Anyone that has been in the military is simply just one chess piece they use at their leisure to protect their own internal assets and money.”

Editor’s Note: This text is from a video at TRT News.



See People’s Tribune story on mounting pressure for permanent Gaza ceasefire, and protest campaign to vote “uncommitted” in Democratic primaries at <https://bit.ly/48XezLb>

It’s a Women’s World Organize and Fight Like Hell

By Georgia de la Garza

In 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 as National Women’s History Week. Finally, in 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-9 designating March as Women’s History Month. “We’ve come a long way Baby” since the Suffragist movement of the 1800’s—or have we?

During the Suffragist Movement, women were criminalized, tortured, humiliated, and beaten fighting for the right to vote. Today, women are criminalized for choices of reproductive health and having to fight bills that would strip more of our rights away.

Women have been on the front lines fighting for the right to thrive in an existence of equality. We fight for our families, our children, our parents, our partners, our friends, and oftentimes, strangers who are battling with the same struggles.

We still get underpaid, making 84 cents for every dollar a man makes for full-time work and around 78 cents on the dollar for part-time work. The difference adds up to thousands of dollars a year.

Across the country, we organize for Medicare for All, including a higher standard of healthcare; for fair housing as we see the number growing of families living out of their cars or in one of the tent cities sprawling coast to coast. Many of us organize for food security, clean water as we see the effects of lead poisoning in our children and children starving in our own country that is rich in agriculture. We organize for public education as the private sector breaks down our system,



PHOTO / GAYATRI MALHOTRA, UNSPLASH

pushing charter schools that divide by color, class, and religion. We organize and fight for gun reform against the Oligarchy that owns our Congress and our banks who manufacture wars to overflow their pockets. Tired and heartbroken from many other injustices, we watch our hard-earned money fueling their wars, making misery for other women, forcing migration, bombing their homes, killing their children, partners, other family members, and wonder how soon before my family.

We run for office to serve, to hopefully have

a say in spending our money on programs that would make living easier for us and not easier for the rich. Women have been the majority of the vote since 1964 in the U.S., and not yet been elected President. Millions of women have been standing up to fight, but now, we need all women to engage in the movement. Organize, support women, strike! Voting in 2024 must be about protecting our freedoms, our rights. It’s not easy. We know we have a mutual vision. It’s one of health, peace, and love.

1,000-Plus Black Pastors Call for Gaza Ceasefire

By People’s Tribune



Rev. Frederick Haynes III.

VIDEO STILL, PBS VIDEO

In recent months, in meetings with the White House, open letters and advertisements, more than 1,000 Black pastors representing hundreds of thousands of parishioners have called for President Biden to demand a

permanent ceasefire in Gaza. They have also called for the release of hostages and an end to Israeli occupation of the West Bank. As the New York Times’ Maya King reported, the coalition of Black clergy involved “is diverse, from conservative-leaning Southern Baptists to more progressive nondenominational congregations in the Midwest and Northeast.”

Biden’s stance on Gaza “is a glaring contradiction to what we thought the president and the administration was about,” the Rev. Frederick D. Haynes, senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas and president and chief executive of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, told the Times. While the president says “redeem the soul of America,’ well, this is a stain, a scar on the soul of America. There’s something about this that becomes hypocritical.”

“We see them [Palestinians] as a part of us,” the Rev. Cynthia Hale, founder and senior pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga., told King. “They are oppressed people. We are oppressed people.”

The election outcome is potentially in doubt if Biden fails to change course. King wrote: “Any cracks in the ordinarily rock-solid foundation of Black support for Mr. Biden, and for Democrats nationally, could be of enormous significance in November.”

Michelle Alexander: Revolutionary love can help change everything

Author and activist Michelle Alexander, speaking in a recent interview with Democracy Now!

“What gives me hope right now is that, despite everything, revolutionary love is bursting and blossoming in all kinds of places and spaces.... Black activists are showing up at protests organized by Jewish students who are raising their voices in solidarity with Palestinians who are suffering occupation and annihilation in Gaza.... And these small acts of revolutionary love are building movements

that just might help us change everything . . . people are connecting dots between climate change and racial and gender injustice. We see it in the movement to stop Cop City in Atlanta. . . . in movements for clean water and food. People are making connections between liberation struggles here at home and those occurring around the world. [There are] promising forms of movement building, incredible acts of courage in this moment, speaking unpopular truths.” (See the full interview on our website, peopletribune.org.)