

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS DRIVE 2020 ELECTIONS:

- CLIMATE
- HEALTHCARE
- POVERTY
- IMMIGRATION
- AND MORE...

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Marchers protesting outside the Democratic Party presidential debates in Detroit declare their demands. PHOTO/DAYMON HARLEY, DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH:
Unite to stop hatred and killing
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A relative of a shooting victim at El Paso vigil. PHOTO/WANG YING, XINHUA VIA ZUMA WIRE



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PHOTO/DAYMON HARTLEY, DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

Enough is enough: *Unite to stop hatred and killing*

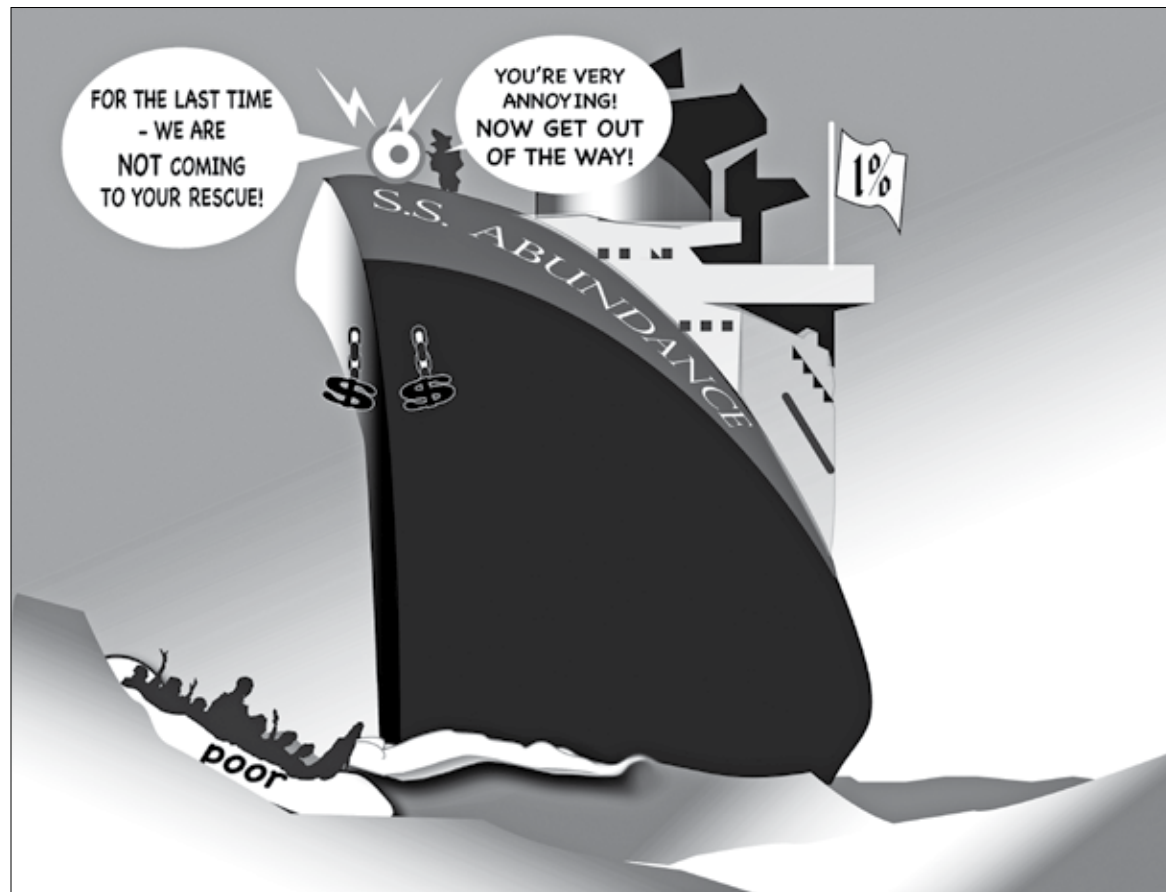
EDITORIAL

In El Paso, a doctor said he treated patients who had wounds one would only expect to see on a battlefield. Within hours, another gunman opened fire in Dayton, Ohio. The shootings came barely a week after the Gilroy, California, killings. Within days of the El Paso shooting—which targeted Latinos, especially Latino immigrants—ICE rounded up nearly 700 immigrant factory workers in Mississippi, leaving children stranded at school crying for their parents. Meanwhile, Trump, whose racism and xenophobia has promoted violence, posed for grotesque, smiling “thumbs up” photos at an El Paso hospital where shooting victims had been treated.

America seems to be descending ever deeper into a maelstrom of violence, hatred and division. Add to the mass shootings the gun violence in our cities’ poorest neighborhoods, and the violence of the police.

America has been violent from day one, and has a history of racism, and today that history of violence and division is being used to move the country toward a dictatorship. To impose a dictatorship, first you isolate and dehumanize certain groups of people, then you mobilize others in society to attack them. Once society is divided and unstable, a dictatorship can be imposed.

This is what is happening to America. The people and democracy have been under attack for years—whether it’s the mass shootings, the guns and drugs flooding our neighborhoods, the opioid epidemic, the police kill-



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

ings (especially of Blacks), mass incarceration, voter suppression, destruction of civil liberties, restrictions on the right to protest, children in cages, the homeless left to die, people dying from poisoned water or for lack of health-care and food, and so on—it adds up to mass murder, a destabilized society, and eventually an open dictatorship of the corporations and billionaires.

The economic crisis has given rise to this push for dictatorship because the crisis has unleashed a new kind of struggle among the people. That struggle threatens to push aside the billionaires and corporations and build a new, truly democratic America that will take care of all

its people. The powerful cannot tolerate such a threat, so they are forced to impose a dictatorship; it may wear the face of a thug like Donald Trump, or a more “liberal” face, but it will mean the end of any democracy we still have, if we allow it.

But millions of people are joining hands to defend democracy and our humanity. We see it in the people stepping forward to demand that the detention camps close, and people surrounding ICE vans to prevent them leaving with detainees. We see people demanding the gun violence stop, as with the crowd in Dayton that shouted down Ohio’s governor with chants of “Do something!” when he came there to speak. We

see it in Mississippi, where people of every color and nationality came out to care for the children who were left without parents by the ICE raids.

In his poem “September 1, 1939” (which was the date World War 2 began), the late English poet W.H. Auden wrote, “We must love one another or die.” These words could have been written yesterday. We can unite as human beings with common needs and a common yearning for democracy, equality, and a way to take care of ourselves and our families. There is plenty of everything for everyone today. We can only advance together. Let’s get to work.

PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE

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 the 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.

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.

The *People’s Tribune*, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper with an editorial board based in Chicago.

PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE EDITORIAL POLICY: Articles that are unsigned, such as the cover story and editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. By-lined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

Deadlines for articles and art: The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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Social movements drive 2020 elections: Climate • Healthcare • Poverty • Immigration

COVER STORY

Outside the second Democratic Presidential debates in Detroit, various groups took to the streets to march, rally, and protest to articulate their demands. The spirit of the rally centered on the burning issues facing workers. Climate change and the Green New Deal were at the forefront.

Marchers carried a banner saying “Make Detroit the engine of the Green New Deal,” with signs in the shape of fists held high, painted green with “We Demand Community Control,” “Union Jobs,” “Healthy Food,” “Racial Justice,” “Keep Families Together,” and more. A Detroit group demanded clean, safe water as a “right.” A Flint group said, “Don’t forget about Flint!” Unions were represented and a strong contingent from SEIU rallied around the Fight for Fifteen.

They all marched together, independent of parties, united in demanding the presidential candidates address the issues.

Some of the marchers expressed why they felt it important to be there. Two African American women from Detroit said a lot of people had gotten complacent but stressed that we can come together as Americans. “We can agree to disagree.” They’re concerned about the race relations in this country and one said, “We can’t ignore it. I’m the mother of three African American children and I want them to live in a country where this issue is not hanging over their heads.”

Michael McCord, a disabled vet, thinks veterans’ issues should get more airtime. “We have millions of veterans going around with broken teeth, like myself, and other health problems,” he said.

Varshini Prakash, a leader in the Sunrise Movement, pointedly stated, “Climate change, racism, the exploitative eco-

nomie system we live under, are connected together.”

Baba Baxter, a disabled Detroit leader, expressed the vision of the Green New Deal. He sees people working and resources shared equitably. He envisions opportunities for children in a world that’s considerate of Mother Earth. He sees Mother Earth smiling, saying, “People will be happier. It’s gonna be a beautiful thing.”

Maureen Taylor of Michigan Welfare Rights aroused the crowd when she said “Stop begging Democrats, stop begging Republicans, stop begging Libertarians” to address the needs of the people. She urged the crowd to take direct action to challenge the system saying, “Tell folks that here in Detroit we’re going to pick up all the homeless and move them into abandoned houses.”

What’s causing homelessness in the “Motor City?” A key thing is that jobs are being lost to automation. Michigan, for example, lost 1 million jobs from 2000 to 2013. Some experts predict that one-third of U.S. jobs could be automated by 2030.

The problem is this society is organized around the needs of the corporations, and many politicians, and the government itself, serve corporate interests. So as the people are thrown out of work by technology, and as the corporations destroy the environment to insure their profits, the government abandons us.

This is why protests that place the people’s demands in the face of the presidential candidates and the parties—including the fight of Sunrise and others to demand that the Democratic Party hold a special debate solely dedicated to climate—are so crucial. We anticipate just as vibrant, if not more, challenges from the grassroots as the 2020 election season unfolds. Follow the *People’s Tribune* for ongoing election coverage!



Protesters declare their demands outside the Democratic presidential debates in Detroit in July. As we go to print, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) rejected the youth-driven Sunrise movement’s demand for the Democratic Party to hold a debate on climate change. “The DNC voted to ignore our voices and refused to hold a climate debate. We cannot stand by and let this continue,” said leader Varshini Prakash. The Sunrise movement will join the climate strike on September 20. “This is your chance to be a part of something massive, and to broadcast our demand for a Green New Deal at a scale that our political leaders cannot ignore,” said Prakash.

PHOTOS/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

Trump’s proposed budget cuts add insult to injury

As the threat of recession looms, the Trump administration has submitted a \$4.7 trillion budget to Congress for the year 2020 that would drastically cut programs that America’s poorest people depend on for survival.

Medicare will be cut \$845 billion over the next 10 years. **Medicaid** will be cut \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years with work requirements in order to receive benefits. Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act will be eliminated. **Social Security**, including disability, will be cut \$25 billion over 10 years. The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** will be cut \$220 billion over the next ten years with mandatory work requirements in order to receive benefits. Of the 45 million Americans currently get-

ting **SNAP**, as many as 3.1 million could be thrown out of the program and 500,000 children could lose free school lunch and breakfast. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** will be cut \$21 billion.

Further cuts will include the Student Loan Program, HUD, Section 8 and other public housing programs, Head Start, Women Infants and Children Nutrition Program (WIC), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education and others.

Even though the title of the budget is, “A Budget for a Better America, Promises Kept, Tax Payers First,” if passed, this budget is a broken promise that will bring the worst of times for millions of Americans. And the only taxpayers who

are “first” are the corporations who just got a huge tax cut which is the reason why there are such deep cuts in this budget in the first place. Scapegoating immigrants won’t change the fact that revenue this year compared to last year is down four to nine percent as a result.

Another recession is sure to bring massive layoffs and economic hardship. Trump’s budget is a message from corporate America to all of us at the bottom, as well as those who will be joining us, that they have no intention of doing anything for workers they no longer need.

Every candidate for federal office and every member of Congress must be asked what they are going to do to make sure government serve the needs of the people.

Volunteers welcome!

Dear Readers, your skills are welcome to help the *People’s Tribune* continue to be a bright light in our battle for a society that cares for us all. If you have skills in design, social media, editing, writing, art, poetry or photography, please donate some time! Call 800-691-6888 or email info@peopletribune.org

— The People’s Tribune
Editorial Board

On these pages are some of the many voices in the fight for a society that doesn't know killings, poverty, jailings, children separated from parents, borders, and pain—where we all share the abundance and live peaceful, happy, healthy lives.

— The Editors

Invocation for the action to end criminalization, detention and deportations

Editor's note: Rabbi Brant Rosen delivered an invocation at a protest at Daley Plaza, Chicago, July 13, 2019. Below we print its last paragraph. See the full invocation on Facebook.

shalom aleichem to you angels of justice
angels of the most high
show us how to fight for the liberation of anyone
who has been forced from their homes pursued
taken locked away sent away
anyone whose very lives are forbidden forgotten forsaken
inspire us to take down oppressive systems
that were built by the powerful to maintain
the power of the powerful
remind us that there is a power yet greater
that comes from a place that knows no borders
no deportations no barrier walls no prisons
no guards no soldiers no police
a place where we no longer have to struggle for justice because
justice gushes forth like a mighty stream flowing freely
from the sovereign beyond all sovereigns
all of us angels of justice all of us
building the world we know is possible yes
shalom aleichem peace to you
peace to us all
this is our prayer let's say amen

Detroit man deported to Iraq dies homeless

In another act of incredible cruelty, Jimmy Aldaoud, of Iraqi extraction, who came to the U.S. from Greece and lived here since he was six months old, was deported to Iraq under Trump's immigration policy.

He had never set foot in Iraq and didn't know the language. His death may have been connected to his inability to obtain insulin to treat his diabetes. Friends said he also had mental health problems. He was last seen alive sleeping by a dumpster in Iraq.

An immigration attorney friend of the family said, "Rest in Peace Jimmy. Your blood is on the hands of ICE and this administration."

[Information is from Politico, L.A. Times and USA Today].

M.A.S.K. leads against poverty and violence

By Maria Pike

Editor's note: On Friday July 26 at the corner of 75th and Stewart in Chicago, two women, Chantell Grant and Andrea Stoudemire, were shot to death. This is the corner where M.A.S.K. (Mothers Against Senseless Killing) has operated for over four years to bring peace to a community abandoned by the city for decades. Someone on Facebook said it was a "waste of time." Addressing 100 gathered there on Sunday, July 28, Maria Pike, an activist and mother who lost a child to gun violence, reiterated her reply below:

Someone just posted "It's a waste of time."

As you all know, M.A.S.K. does not do marches, rallies, etc. because they believe their activism is better served by what they do for the community they care about, and engage in things like buying pampers, feeding the kids, the youth, the homeless, the alcoholics, giving advice when asked and providing a safe haven for the children in the neighborhood (while they are there weather permitting) during summer. Their beach is the concrete underneath their feet (an improvement from the dirt mixed with junk), the two 4ft. baby pools and recently a couple of fans donated by a Hyde Park mom. Their monies come from individual pockets, volunteer pockets, meal trains, donations of labor, etc.

And something happens during those daily interactions, their neighbors start seeing eye to eye,



Mothers Against Senseless Killings, (M.A.S.K.) mom, Maria Pike converses with one of the many people who came to stand with the Englewood community, at 75th and Stewart, following the murder of two women in the neighborhood. PHOTO/ANDY WILLIS

their compassion moves to empathy and they build relationships with the people they serve.

We may all disagree, agree to disagree and shade each other every once in a while, but what no one should even question is the reason why M.A.S.K. even exists and its resilience to storms, figuratively and real.

Four women have been shot in recent weeks in that area. One a domestic violence situation, (two of three last night were women) at around 10 p.m., the two women have died; as far as I know one of them is someone who brought her three kids to play and be fed daily. Is this personal? You bet your dismissive self it is! One mother has left three orphans that other mothers from the suburbs, the Northside, the Southside, the Westside have served because they cared and they wanted them to thrive in this God forgotten place, these

are black moms, white moms, brown moms, Asian moms, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Catholic, Agnostic! These women are deserving of being treated as human beings and not a statistic.

We moms get the desperation her kids must be now feeling, their broken hearts, the uncertain future, how unfair it is to not only be poor, disenfranchised, but discarded like your simple but telling comment alluded to. Someone chose to spray bullets on women, on mothers and WE have something to say about that. The war on the status quo seems to have failed us and we are MAD, we have something to say about this hate and disregard for the lives of others. SO it is not "A WASTE OF TIME." Life looks different outside a computer or phone screen. Me and other moms will be there as women who lost sisters. This is hate against women as well. That is all.

Virginians embrace asylum seekers

Editor's note: The People's Tribune's Lisa King interviewed Tara Orlanda of Floyd Friends of Asylum Seekers in Virginia, about her group's work.

"What motivated me is that I watched helplessly the news of the caravan heading towards our border from South and Central America. A friend had joined the caravan and was posting live streams of interactions between asylum seekers and locals along the way. It was beautiful to see how folks along the route would post signs such as, 'We have a hammock in the back yard you can use to take a rest, or baskets of food left out that said 'take what you need.' It was inspiring to witness the love strangers were offering these desperate people.

"I met numerous asylum seekers in January. In February, I personally prepared home cooked hot meals for 84 asylum seekers. I started a Facebook group hoping to find other folks interested in assisting. Thirty + folks joined our group in the first couple of days. In March we served 204 asy-

lum seekers. In April, 435, May, 492, June, 510, and July, 534. Our Floyd Friends of Asylum Seekers Facebook group has 356 members worldwide. It grows every day.

"Our vision is to create a safe, nurturing space for families of asylum seekers in Floyd County. We are extending a warm welcome to our South and Central American neighbors who are fleeing conflict, discrimination and unspeakable horrors. This is a labor of love and it has been a privilege and an honor to be part of the solution. It is truly heart warming to know there are so many in our community who are interested in giving a helping hand to our southern neighbors."



Tara Orlanda.

Milwaukee protest against ICE



Hundreds march to the ICE building in Milwaukee for a prayer vigil in support of migrant children and their families on Aug. 7, 2019. The vigil took place during the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly held that week. It took place on the same day the ELCA declared itself a “sanctuary church body,” signaling its support for immigrants. Both came in response to President Trump’s policies at the United States border with Mexico and his pledge to deport millions. (Episcopal News Service)

PHOTOS/JOE BRUSKY, MTEA

The myth of ‘benefits’ undocumented workers supposedly get

By Marilyn Hunter

For my dear Facebook friends who are posting about all the benefits that undocumented workers get, here are the facts:

Undocumented immigrants, including DACA holders, are ineligible to receive most federal public benefits, including means-tested benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, sometimes referred to as food stamps), regular Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Undocumented immigrants are ineligible for health care subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and are prohibited from purchasing unsubsidized health coverage on ACA exchanges. There are restrictions, but

undocumented immigrants may be eligible for a handful of in-kind (non-cash) benefits that are deemed necessary to protect life or guarantee safety in dire situations, such as disaster relief, soup kitchens, child/adult protective services as well as emergency treatment under Medicaid, immunizations for communicable diseases, K-12 public education, subsidized school meals, and access to healthcare and nutrition programs for pregnant women and children under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Don’t forget, in many cases, they are contributing to unemployment insurance and paying social security and Medicare tax for benefits they will never see. They are paying gas, sales and property tax (in rent) and may even be having income tax withheld.



Truck as a weapon: Jewish protesters attacked at ICE facility

Editor’s note: The photo above is a video still from *Never Again Action*, youtu.be/deLO7ITcoMs. The following excerpt is from a statement by *Jews Against ICE*.

“Tonight we experienced a tiny example of the violence ICE uses on our immigrant neighbors every day. [In the video of the incident], you can see the moment an ICE guard drove his truck through our peaceful #JewsAgainstICE protest in Rhode Island at the Wyatt Detention Center. Then other guards came out and pepper sprayed the crowd, while the police stood by and did nothing. We will not allow ICE’s violence to deter us. We will continue to put our bodies on the line to #ShutDownICE, because we know from our ancestors that this kind of violence only escalates, unless we stop it. ... Until our politicians take real action to shut down ICE, and create safe conditions for immigrants and asylum seekers, we will continue to make it impossible for ICE to do business as usual. To learn more about our plan to take action all over the country, visit our site: www.neveragainaction.com”

Clergy declare Birmingham houses of worship ‘sanctuary’ for immigrants

Editor’s note: After 680 immigrants in nearby Mississippi were arrested in a raid, over 50 Birmingham, AL, clergy and activists decided what they will do if raids come to their city. Below are excerpts from their statement:

To the People of Birmingham and Neighbor Communities.

From Concerned Clergy, Faith Leaders, and Faith Communities of Birmingham.

Though we represent diverse theological perspectives and traditions, our mutual commitment to the sacred and ethical treatment of our neighbors transcends boundaries: we believe in loving our neighbors as ourselves...

Our faith communities have watched with growing astonishment the racist, xenophobic, and violent rhetoric from our national leaders ... [and] we are appalled by the hostile policies applied to immigrants and asylum seekers...

To that end, we affirm that:

- Our houses of worship will be sanctuary for those seeking refuge...
- Those of us who cannot safely offer sanctuary will actively and intentionally support those who do open the doors of their houses of worship to provide sanctuary to those ... targeted by immigration enforcement operations...
- We will take action and speak out when ICE raids target our neighbors...
- We also call on our elected city and county officials to refuse to comply with federal infringement on the rights of our neighbors. ... We call on Sheriff Mark Pettway to no longer detain community members without a warrant or transfer them into ICE custody.

We stand firmly on our scriptures and our traditions that this witness is necessary, timely, and in keeping with our faith.



The Rev. Dave Barnhart and the Rev. Jennifer Sanders of Birmingham, AL are among the signers of a letter declaring their houses of worship to be sanctuary for immigrants.

PHOTO/ GREG GARRISON, AL.COM



Climate activists in Detroit. Climate change was a major issue at the recent DSA convention in Atlanta. PHOTO/DAYMON HARTLEY, DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

Generation Z: The power of your vote

By Mary Bricker-Jenkins

“I knew from being homeless that I had to get politically involved,” Jordan said when I asked how he came to be a delegate at the 2019 Convention of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). He tried Democratic Party work, but it was Bernie Sanders’ calls for Medicare for All, free college, and a political revolution that drew him to DSA.

DSA has grown from 5,000 “pre-Bernie” to 56,000 today, and from a median age of 68 in 2013 to 33 years in 2017. The average age of the delegates this year was 27. Twenty-eight DSA members holding elected offices around the country attended the convention, where delegates voted to make local electoral work one of the organization’s three top priorities. (Medicare for All and the Green New Deal are the others.)

“We’re Gen Z. We’re radical,” Jordan said, anticipating a long struggle. As another delegate said, “Our purpose is to build class consciousness and struggle.” Many delegates hope Bernie will win the nomination, for example, but they committed themselves to continue organizing for economic and climate justice no matter what. As another delegate said, “Bernie’s already won. Every candidate now must talk about health care.”

The DSA delegates’ resolutions and plans reflected their desperate struggles around housing, contingent jobs, medical bills, and protecting water and other public resources for all.

Community College must address survival of faculty and students

Editor’s note: The following is adapted from a testimonial delivered at the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees meeting in Oakland, CA on July 23, 2019 by faculty member Ina Adele Ray.

Our faculty situation, which is a nationwide issue, is unsustainable and eventually the chickens will come home to roost. I ask you to move the District in the right direction to give our faculty union a fair contract. Part-time (PT) temporary faculty members make up around 70% of the entire faculty body at all Peralta Community Colleges, and only a small handful can afford health insurance. And those who can afford it are at risk of losing it every time their class gets cut. Each semester, PT faculty are at risk of not having classes to teach, and sometimes they find this out at the last minute. One of our faculty members had a health condition and after their class was cut, they spiraled into debt and almost lost their home to afford health insurance one semester. Most faculty either have to rely on a spouse’s health insurance if they are lucky or just go without and end up in the emergency room of the hospital if they are sick. Or, they risk their housing stability in order to stay healthy to be able to afford health insurance. The cost of living and health insurance crisis we have also affects our students’ quality of education.

The health and housing stability of our faculty is the health and education of our students. Part-time professor, Thea Hunter,

died at age 53 on Dec 17, 2018. She died of cardiac arrest after she arrived in the ER from issues with her asthma and her lungs flooding with fluid. She had no health insurance. Dr. Hunter earned her Ph.D. in History at Columbia University and was an expert in legal history, slavery and the Atlantic World. She taught at many schools including Princeton University. She also faced racism—some people thought she was janitorial staff and students’ parents questioned whether she even had a Ph.D. at Western Connecticut State University.

On behalf of Thea and our faculty in the Peralta District, I ask you to urge the District to negotiate a fair contract for the PFT union, to either increase the already state mandated 50-50 health insurance plan to 70-50 paid for by Peralta or offer cash in lieu of paid insurance like you do with our full-time faculty so the health of our faculty and the quality of our students’ education are sustained.

I also ask you to urge the District to give raises to all faculty, across the board. Our full-time faculty members are the lowest paid in the California community college system in one of the most expensive places to live in this country. This is unsustainable and again, if the District cannot address these survival issues that our faculty face, then our students will lose out on a quality education with healthy and housed faculty members. Thank you for listening. And thank you for the ethical leadership that exists on this board.

When it’s time to be your own advocate

By Rachel Harralson,
Parent Voices Oakland

OAKLAND, CA — Everyday I’m trying to figure out how to help my community—whether I’m making a training module LGBTQ inclusive, changing the narrative in spaces where parents aren’t represented, or assisting a single mom who cannot get child care. After days, weeks, and months of supporting others and trying to make sure all voices are heard, I often have no fight left for me.

Since February of 2018 I’ve been experiencing housing instability ... again. My daughter and I were wrongfully evicted from the

unit I rented for over eight years in North Oakland. Our journey really began in March 2008 after my child support payments stopped. I was left with the awful decision many are faced with—either quit my job and collect aid, or cut my overhead and move into a room in someone’s home. Cash aid from CalWORKS would not have been enough to pay the rent, meaning that I would have wound up moving anyway. My baby girl and I began renting a room from some extended family members. She was six months old and has been sharing a room with me ever since. She will be twelve in November.

Can you imagine being in a

meeting with legislative staffers advocating for affordable childcare while worrying about your own child saying something about your lack of stable housing to a teacher? Can you imagine educating caregivers and parents on their rights, while feeling powerless to assert your own?

Our stories and struggles are interconnected as is our progress and success. I fight for affordable high quality childcare even though I no longer need it because of my child’s age. Others fight to house Oakland’s homeless, and I’m honored to support their work whenever I can, however I can. Be kind to the people fighting for and with you.



The group Parents Voices fights for their kids’ future in Oakland, CA. PHOTO/MICHELLE SNEIDER



Tammye K. Moore holds up a sign during a vigil Aug. 5 in St. Petersburg, FL, in honor of the lives lost at El Paso and Dayton. PHOTO/ANGELIQUE HERRING, TAMPA BAY TIMES VIA ZUMA WIRE



Local townspeople and various groups protest the Nazi presence in a small Georgia town. PHOTO/JOHN RAMSPOTT

Voting matters!

By Austin Long-Scott

If you need a reason to support and vote for political candidates who will fight for the things you need, here's a good one: Your immediate future and the future of your children and grandchildren depend on how you exercise democracy at the polls.

In our two-party system, the Democratic Party handed the 2016 election to President Donald Trump by ignoring the pressing needs of working people in an age when robotic technology is rapidly destroying the basic structure of capitalism—destroying the industrial bargain that exchanged work for wages good enough to let workers plan decent lives for their families and their futures.

This destruction of the work we depended on, founded our very lives upon, is creating a rapidly growing group of workers who are denied that kind of life-sus-

taining work, and must change the system just to get the basic needs all human beings must have to stay alive and healthy. Trump's election enabled the fascists in the firmly pro-corporate Republican Party to take control of our political system and begin to destroy all the protections against corporate exploitation and excess that were so painstakingly fought for over the past half century.

The Democratic Party will repeat those fatal mistakes of the 2016 election and guarantee Trump's reelection in 2020 if it doesn't start caring about the growing millions being kicked out of the economy by technology. Some of the most progressive candidates in the Democratic Party are moving in that direction, but are not yet close to what pushed out workers need. Workers need their government to guarantee that the basic needs of the entire working class are met, and

that the considerable benefits of robotized production are applied to the whole of society, not just seized by corporate executives.

That's where your vote comes in. The ruling class political parties are so tightly tied to fascist control by corporate power and money because hoarding essentials like housing and health care for the ruling class works for them. We the people need government that works for us. You show what you need—and build unity with the other millions of people being kicked to the curb by a dying capitalism—by defending democracy, using your right to vote for candidates who fight for your needs. That sends a message. Voting your interests allows us to stay independent of the ruling class drive to make workers servants to corporate power and profits, regardless of the cost to humanity and the planet.

Linking gun violence, racism, and fascism

By Michelle Sneider

OAKLAND, CA — After a summer of numerous mass shootings by white supremacists, the ties between racism and violence have finally become a central topic in American politics. Yet fascism is still not discussed nearly enough.

Fascism, racism, and violence go hand in hand. What creates fascism is corporate greed and the individual power of the wealthiest people in the world. Racism is a vehicle to distract and divide the public, and prevent them from unifying against corporate fascism.

European indentured servants and enslaved Africans united during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 Virginia. After that, the ruling class enacted Slave Codes to deliberately divide and segregate whites and blacks. Whites were allowed to own small plots of land while Africans were stripped of any rights to freedom at all.

This history affects our present, and our present will shape our future. Learning this history helps us to break the cycle of history repeating itself. We must vote for and support politicians who will fight for the American public instead of wealthy lobbyists, but we also must build a culture of what we want this country to be. When we become strong and conscious as a nation, fascism will never take hold and racism will at last become powerless and irrelevant.

See a more detailed version of this article at peopletribune.org.

The myth of California progressivism

Editor's note: In 2018, Maria Estrada ran for Assembly in California's 63rd District, located south-east of Los Angeles, against incumbent Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon and garnered over 49% of the vote.

By Maria Estrada

I dreaded going to the California Democratic Party Convention held in San Francisco last May, and even more my hearing held afterwards. I had documented complaints showing 30% ineligibility of convention voters and bylaw violations by the Regional Director, one being leaving my

name off a ballot! Not only did the Democratic Party rule against me, they blamed me for the fraudulent election. How about them apples?

California, 5th largest economy in the world, with palm trees and beaches, has the highest homeless rates in the country. Police killings are higher than Georgia and Alabama. My district has some of the worst environmental conditions; air quality, lung cancer, leukemia and environmental asthma are rampant with the highest rates of uninsured children and second highest of uninsured adults. The powerful Speaker of the Assembly represents this dis-

trict and had the support to pass SB562, the Single Payer Health bill. He blocked this bill. Why? For the same reason he doesn't demand enforcement of environmental regulations: money.

The 63rd is also home to the Exide catastrophe, a prime example of how capitalism works. For over 30 years Exide contaminated its workers and communities with lead. Cal OSHA, the Dept. of Public Health, EPA, Dept. of Toxic Substances Control, and Air Quality Management District knew and did nothing. Exide, although shut down, was exonerated. Today 97% of homes there test positive for lead. Exide filed Chap-

ter 11, but today has \$1.9 billion in assets. Exide secured its assets through the courts, the state and elected officials. Families still live in 10,000 contaminated homes.

The Democratic Party-led legislature also covered PG&E's losses by raising rates after being found negligent for the Napa and Paradise fires, killing 173 people. This legislature won't make utilities public, and has not charged PG&E with any crimes. Democratic Gov. Brown retired leaving a \$9 billion budget surplus. The truth is there is no surplus, only withholding of funds, while budgets are cut, and people live on streets. In a state considered the

most progressive in the country, we are failing.

The myth that California is doing well is just that, a myth. This economy is not working for the people, only for monied corporate interests that donate to campaigns and are never cited for destroying communities. Democrat Pelosi, critical of Trump's immigration policies, remained silent when Obama deported more immigrants than any president in history. But this is where the Democratic party wants it and until the party represents the people, California will not be the beacon of progressivism it is believed to be. Don't believe the hype.

The new war against America's homeless

By Keith McHenry,
co-founder Food Not Bombs

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Millions of America's 140 million poor are already living without housing and many of us are a medical crisis, layoff or car repair away from joining the ranks our country's unhoused. Cities across America are increasing their sweeps of camps, discarding people's tents, blankets, and other survival property. At the same time, economists are warning that there could be a global recession as a result of issues including the trade wars, tax breaks for the super-wealthy, and student loan debt. There is a potential catastrophic increase in the number of Americans forced to live on our streets.

This impending crisis could be one reason for the new attacks against those living outside. There is an ideological war that attempts to paint the homeless as mentally ill drug addicts beyond help or redemption, and is driving a wave of Recall Campaigns against political leaders who have attempted to introduce humane solutions for the growing homeless crisis.

Trump's favorite TV stations are participating in the dehumanization of those without housing now that it has successfully

sowed fear of the refugee to millions of Americans. Are those frightening pictures of standing-room only fenced-in immigration detention centers a means to get people to accept camps for the millions evicted onto our streets?

Fox's Jesse Watters comments on the increase in those living outside in Los Angeles saying, "You only have one solution. You bulldoze the 50-block radius, and you institutionalize everybody and detoxify them, and then you let them out."

The Trump interview with Tucker Carlson (Fox News) adds a frightening voice to the war on America's homeless. "Police officers are getting sick just by walking the beat," Trump claimed. "We cannot ruin our cities. And you have people that work in those cities. They work in office buildings and to get into the building, they have to walk through a scene that nobody would have believed possible three years ago. ... When we have leaders of the world coming in to see the President of the United States and they're riding down a highway, they can't be looking at that," he said. "They can't be looking at scenes like you see in Los Angeles and San Francisco. So we're looking at it very seriously. We may intercede.

We may do something to get that whole thing cleaned up."

If the history of past dehumanization campaigns against those without housing is any indication, the framing of the crisis facing millions of Americans as "An Addiction Crisis Disguised as a Housing Crisis" and the use of the recall to stop political leaders from advancing realistic and humane solutions suggests a dramatic increase in the passage and enforcement of harsher laws, destruction of people's survival property and the possibly of internment as is already the case with people fleeing the chaos and violence caused by decades of U.S. wars in Central America.

The phrase "life unworthy of life" or "Lebensunwertes Leben" in German was a Nazi designation for the segments of the community which, according to Hitler's regime of the time, had no right to live. We cannot let this happen here. We are homeless not helpless.

Editor's note: This is a shortened version of Keith McHenry's article, which can be found in its entirety at peopletribune.org and at blog.foodnotbombs.net/the-new-war-against-americas-homeless



"We the People respectfully ask you to stop criminalizing those the system is failing. Thank you," writes Crystal Rose Sanchez (pictured above), a Sacramento-based homeless activist. PHOTO/KYLE COOPER

Homelessness: Time to change it up!

By Sarah Menefee and
Suzanne McDonald

This conversation between San Francisco poet Sarah Menefee, of the *People's Tribune* and 'First they came for the homeless,' and poet and homeless advocate Suzanne McDonald, who has been homeless in several states, took place on social media in August. Suzanne added a meme about homelessness in Portland, OR, where she has experienced it also.

Many such conversations, on various platforms, in meetings, camps, and on the streets, are going on every day around the country, as more people fall into homelessness and more homeless people struggle to create community and fight criminalization, as they demand housing. We would like to hear about your experiences, stories about where the resistance is happening, from people who are organizing toward a society that guarantees housing as a right and a priority.



A sign in downtown San Francisco. Nearly half of all older homeless people became homeless after the age of 50 according to a recent study, due largely to a "tattered safety net," and little to help them once they have fallen into the street. The number of elderly homeless, according to one researcher, is expected to triple over the next decade. And homelessness among women has increased over 30% in the past five years.

PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

Sarah Menefee: "If there are six empty houses for every homeless person in this country, why are we debating about shelters and whether people should be allowed to be in tents or 'tiny

houses' or sheds, live in cars, sit on the sidewalk etc., etc.? House people now, the housing is there! What did you say, capitalism and corporate bottom lines, private property and the profit motive? If

Draw the line on homelessness folks

By David Grant

STOCKTON, CA — Try walking your talk or get the ... outta our way. We're being beat down daily out here.

Not all of us are addicts. Most are vets and disabled. There's a staggering amount of them here in Stockton, CA. The shelters and Gospel mission turning families with small children away, making money off us selling soda and coffee and bottled water. San Joaquin County crisis system is a joke.

More morals, less markets. Draw the line, folks. Our children deserve better than what we were left with.

Make your choice fast. People are suffering.

I'm tired of this shit ... this isn't living. It's surviving a constant nightmare. And a well organized one at that.

that's what is standing in the way of taking care of everyone's basic needs and to ending this mass suffering we all hate to see, then time to change it up!!"

Suzanne McDonald: "Yep, a year ago on this day, and still no real conversation about THIS. But lots of sad emojis. And a handful more 'beds' at congregate 'homeless shelter' compounds—and in jails, too—as well as a few 'innovations' in shanty-camp NOT-Solutions. ...

"P.S. The real number of homeless people in Portland, Oregon is estimated by home-

less advocates on the ground to be closer to 12,000, and not the 4,000 counted by a handful of volunteers in 3-4 hours on one night for the federal HUD count. And that's still more than one vacant apartment for each homeless person. Since a great many of these homeless people are couples and families including children, it's likely less than half of those vacant apartments could house them all—right now. This scenario of more vacant housing than homeless people is the same in cities across the U.S. and globally."

'Renuncia Ricky': A newly emerging era in Puerto Rico?

By Pedro Ángel Rivera Muñoz

SAN JUAN, PR — It was a hot month in July, slightly over a million people, close to a third of Puerto Rico's current population, took to the streets and forced the resignation of their colonial governor, Ricardo "Ricky" Roselló Nevarez. "The Puerto Rican Summer," as it's been labeled, became a viral media phenomenon. The event has been depicted as the "birth of a new Puerto Rico," "a millennial youth-led rebellion," and "a massive rejection of colonial parties politics." While such depictions may or may not endure, and although it took place in a U.S. colonial territory, the process that sparked such an unprecedented event must be kept closely in mind because it may contain lessons of direct relevance to the lives of most working people here in the continental U.S.A.

The proverbial straw that broke the camel's back was a private chat room conversation between the now former Governor Ricardo "Ricky" Roselló Nevárez and his close associates in government, leaked by a disgruntled government official. The chat was peppered with insulting remarks about well-known pub-

lic figures as well as impoverished workers and marginalized groups; it also shed light on the dark rooms of corrupt practices and conspiracies between private investors, publicists and leading government managers.

Angel M. Agosto, a veteran Puerto Rican political journalist, writer and organizer, compared the "Ricky, Renuncia" apparently spontaneous uprising to early 1970's massive protests in which he was an active participant. "Popular uprisings always have a previous history that precedes it. These, apparently spontaneous rebellions can lead to great political transformations or they can end up forgotten," Agosto warned.

Agosto describes the "Ricky Renuncia" movement as "an outburst of indignation," a collective scream of moral outrage in an already exposed newscape of thievery and corruption acts within key government agencies such as Education and Treasury Departments, and ongoing harsh budget cuts in education, health services and workers' pensions, imposed by a financial control board created by the U.S.A. Congress.

"These types of movements were foreseeable," according to

Agosto. "The capitalist system breeds its own gravediggers," he sentenced. In Puerto Rico, as in the continental U.S.A., the potential gravediggers of the ruling political and economic system as we know it are the previous generations' children and grandchildren, who are now being excluded from getting jobs, condemned to precarious low paying part time work and forced to become indebted wage slaves, while automation eliminates jobs on a mass scale, leaving space for a very small group of specialized workers.

Following the "Renuncia Ricky" uprising, people's assemblies are mushrooming throughout large cities and small towns across the island of Puerto Rico. Small but growing groups of people are challenging the current political parties system and demanding new ways of economic and social participation in an effort to get rid of the corrupt political elites and the exploitative colonial capitalist system that nurtures them. As Agosto suggests, only deepening levels of independent popular organization may avoid the fading of the "Ricky Renuncia" uprising into the dustbin of history.



Over a million people, close to a third of Puerto Rico's population, took to the streets and forced the resignation of their governor, Ricardo "Ricky" Roselló Nevarez.

PHOTO/DONATED

On solidarity and the Blackjewel coal miners

Editor's note: Kentucky miners have been blocking trains loaded with coal from leaving the mine after Blackjewel, the sixth largest coal mining company in the country just two years ago, abruptly filed for bankruptcy on July 1. Hundreds of workers were left with no severance or health benefits, and the company stopped payment on their last paychecks. As of this writing, the miners are still protesting, demanding they be paid. Labor activist Matt Alley of Blue Collar Writer sent the material below on the opportunity for expanding working class solidarity for publication in the People's Tribune.

The Blackjewel miners hit home with me. My family and I went through our own bankrupt coal company story in 2004 with Horizon Natural Resources. My dad was retired and all I had was about three years during the 90s with the company. I was more concerned about my dad being ripped off of his union retirement. In the end, we won, thanks to hav-

ing the union fighting for us and friends in Congress. We were all put on the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund for orphaned miners, a term for union miners orphaned by coal companies walking away from their legacy liabilities via bankruptcy. (The fund is now in jeopardy thanks to the likes of Mitch McConnell and others; with the decline in coal, the industry doesn't want to keep paying into it.) At the same time, thousands of coal miners, some sick from Black Lung disease, lost their medical coverage after a U.S. Bankruptcy judge ruled that Horizon did not have to honor union contracts that guaranteed benefits for 1,000 active miners and some 2,300 retirees.

I have been covering and doing relief efforts for the Blackjewel miners. I

don't consider myself a humanitarian because my activism leans more towards militant. I, however, have found myself forced to be the voice of reason when it comes to the topic of fairness of the Blackjewel miners.



Kentucky miners continue to protest for their pay after Blackjewel, once the sixth largest coal mining company in the country, filed bankruptcy.

PHOTO/MATT ALLEY

Sadly, far too many progressives on social media have said things like "they get what they deserve for voting Trump," or using the unpaid miners plight as a soapbox for renewable energies, but in a way that's mocking these workers. I find this behavior disgusting and not what the progressive movement is about. They are no better than the enemies of the working class when they act like this.

What happened to the Black-

jewel miners could happen to any of us and it doesn't matter what profession it is. Give it some time, and one day there will be a solar company who stiffes their employees on pay or the workers lose everything because the solar company went bankrupt. If money is to be made, greed will happen.

We need to come together. Stand in solidarity as the working class. Stop allowing the politicians and corporations to divide

us. Stay on track with Solidarity. Overall there's been an outpouring of solidarity.

I must say I'm proud of our 120 Strong Movement network in Kentucky that includes KY 120 United, KY United We Stand, The Kentucky Initiative, Teamsters Local 783 and myself, for hammering down the fact these are our fellow Kentuckians and we have to help them. It's what we do.

HOW DO WE REIN IN THE ENERGY CORPORATIONS?

AS THE ARTICLES ON THESE PAGES ILLUSTRATE, THE LIFE OR DEATH BATTLE FOR EARTH, HUMANITY, AND POWER OVER THE CORPORATIONS, PARTICULARLY ENERGY, IS ON THE RISE HERE AND GLOBALLY. WITHIN THESE STRUGGLES, MANY ARE BEGINNING TO DISCUSS HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, AND THE IDEA OF PUBLIC RATHER THAN CORPORATE OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY IS BEGINNING TO BE TALKED ABOUT. YOUR THOUGHTS? FEEL FREE TO SEND YOUR IDEAS TO INFO@PEOPLETRIBUNE.ORG — THE EDITORS

EQT Dominion ignores industry experts: MVP pipeline construction continues

By Lisa King

VIRGINIA — Big energy continues to embrace fracking, despite repeated words of caution from the world of finance. EQT Dominion Power continues to limp half-heartedly through the formidable rules and regulations with the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), often ignoring the ones that don't suit their agenda.

Depending on who you ask, fracking may or may not be a money pit. An Internet search will quickly reveal that natural gas projected production far exceeds it's own projected demand. To be clear, big energy's own numbers, generated within the industry, validate the certainty of the upcoming gas supply glut.

In West Virginia and Virginia, however, EQT Dominion Power has apparently dismissed industry facts to pursue when applied to the ongoing construction of their

Mountain Valley Pipeline. After 150 years of being in charge in Central Appalachia, big energy is finally facing a day of reckoning.

Meanwhile, near Elliston, Virginia, and Virginia Tech, a handful of activists have held off Dominion Power's development of their controversial pipeline for over 350 days. After visiting, and getting to know the activists at the Yellow Finch site, I realized the future of our planet is in the hands of these young activists. This gives me much comfort, especially since MVP, LLC, Dominion has recently pursued its agenda more aggressively than ever before.

Emily Satterwhite, Virginia Tech professor of Appalachian Studies, says, "MVP, LLC, knows it will cost them upwards of \$3 billion if they walk away from this flawed and dangerous project rather than passing the cost on to consumers, which is why they continue to

push ahead at a breakneck pace, despite the fact that they do not have permission to cross rivers or streams, the Appalachian Trail, or the Jefferson National Forest." For more about Emily, see <http://bit.ly/lockpipeline>

Chuck Nelson, retired coal miner and Appalachian activist, has witnessed a lifetime of broken promises. "Appalachia feels used! The state, as well as the federal government has ignored the problems that communities all through Appalachia have been going through with not only the decline of coal, but with handling the opioid problem. The pharmaceutical companies, along with the federal FDA, federal government, has let it get out of control. Appalachia has always answered the call, and not once ever asked for anything." For more about Chuck, see <http://bit.ly/chuck-nelson>

"Tina Badger, environmental activist, says, "After five years of presenting fact based evidence



Professor Emily Satterwhite (left) joined with her community to protest construction of a new pipeline, and they are among thousands in Virginia who are taking a stand against corporate greed. PHOTO/DONATED

and telling regulatory agencies and government officials that the Mountain Valley Pipeline could not be built safely and our waters would not be protected I am really tired of saying 'we told you so!'

For democracy to work, participation is required. We need a vibrancy of purpose that will result in reclaiming our govern-

ment. This vibrancy is alive and well in our communities. There's a surge amongst the masses that can't be denied, and a surge that has the few with the most running scared. And like a trapped animal, they're not worried about the mess they leave us. It's time to escort them to the door.

Medicare For All: It worked for Libby, MT, it can work for Flint

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from a Flint Democracy Defense League flyer.

FLINT, MI — The asbestos exposure in Libby, Montana, caused by W.R. Grace Company, whose vermiculite mine poisoned the entire region, left thousands of people, not just the miners, suffering and dying.

Libby's Medicare pilot program was done under Section 10323 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that amended the Social Security Act, Section 1881, to include Section 1881A, Medicare Coverage for Individuals Exposed to Environmental Health Hazards.

When President Obama declared a State of Public Health Emergency in Flint in

2016, Governor Snyder could have petitioned the Feds to provide the same Medicare coverage. Instead he pressed the Feds to expand Medicaid coverage to children and young adults under the age of 21 and to pregnant women. The Obama Administration quickly approved the request. This expansion was done under Section 1115 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Lead poisoning can be toxic for all adults, not just children.

Libby's Medicare expansion has no age restrictions and does not end as the asbestos-poisoned residents grow older, at least those who survive the poisoning. We had a special Medicaid Expansion for a while in Flint which covered at least 15,000 more residents, but that program



has ended.

We must demand that all poisoned people are equal and that the Medicare pilot program that was secured for Libby must be enacted for poisoned Flint residents.

We deserve Expanded Medicare for everyone impacted by the decisions made by our government!

Global Youth lead Climate Strike: September 20 and 27

On September 20 and 27, youth from more than 150 countries will be leading climate strikes, slated to be potentially the largest such actions to have ever taken place.

"The youth uprising," says 350.org North America Director Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, "is backed by millions who refuse to sit by while the Trump administration, hand-in-hand with fossil fuel executives, continues their campaign of climate denial and policy rollbacks, all while we face extreme heat waves, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires."

"This is a global issue that affects everyone," says 16-year-old environmentalist Greta Thunberg. "We're all in the same boat, so everyone should be concerned about this."

Young people have been leading but now it's the job of the rest of us to back them up. And back up is coming. For example, the scientific community from around the world endorsed the climate strikers and are supporting the youth in the streets on September 20. (See March for Science.)

"Our house is on fire—let's act like it. If not you, then who? If not now, then when?" says Thunberg.

'We're showing up to protect the sacred,' says Mauna protector

Editor's note: Dr. Kalama O Ka Aina Niheu (Kanaka Maoli), lifelong protector of sacred Native Hawaiian lands and co-founder of the Mauna Medic Healers Hui, interviewed with People's Tribune correspondent Adam Gottlieb shortly after Hawaii Gov. David Ike announced on June 20 that the state gave the green light to the controversial Thirty Meter Telescope project (TMT) on Mauna Kea, after years of protests and legal battles.

Where I came from, my family has been in generations on the front line struggles in protecting Kanaka Maoli land, life, and culture. ... We've always stood up for protecting the people and, if necessary, putting our bodies on the line.

From 1840 we were an internationally recognized sovereign nation. We had 98% literacy, and a fully developed free medical and educational system that is, in many ways, what people envision communism or socialism to be. We have the first constitution that enshrined non-discrimina-

tion. So we have this very egalitarian nation, which was taken over by greedy businessmen, and also the U.S., for Manifest Destiny and spreading a military might throughout the world...

These lands that Mauna Kea is on are Hawaiian Kingdom lands. And in our traditional way of land stewardship ... the oceans were for the deep whales, and considered sacred. And we know now with climate change how important the whales are at producing phytoplankton. Half the oxygen produced in the world is actually produced by the ocean, so keeping that sacred is really important.

Then you have the Wao Kanaka, where the humans, the people, lived. And we cultivated that. And then we had layers and stratifications up to the highest peaks, and that is where Mauna Kea and Haleakala are, which we deemed the Wao Akua, or the realm of the Gods, and people are not supposed to destroy those lands. They are only to be accessed for traditional and sacred ceremony.

[Mauna Kea] is the aquifer

source for the entire island of Moku o Keawe, the Big Island. If they were to put an 18-story [building] and dig into the surface of this very delicate ecosystem, they risk incredible contamination of the entire island's aquifer. And the U.S., has already destroyed one of the water plates and aquifers from Kaho'olawe, due to the bombing there.

So that's the important thing: understanding it is really a native land issue; it's a scientific technological issue for sustainability; and not specifically about a telescope, although they're trying to frame it as that. It's about the destruction of the environment and the people who are willing to stand up and protect it. The only thing that's going to be able to stand in the way of the destruction of the sacred is us.

The government entity that protects that particular site has purchased an LRAD [Long Range Acoustic Device]; they already have MRAPs [Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles] and several other paramilitary types of equipment developed as part



Dr. Kalama O Ka Aina Niheu (Kanaka Maoli).

of the militarization of the police throughout the U.S. It entered the Hawaii law enforcement strongly, and they're gonna ramp up. And you know we're going to show up again in peaceful prayer, and we're going to protect the sacred. We will remain in ceremony, as

we always have, but it sounds like they are prepared to bring violence into our communities and upon our people.

Visit the Mauna Medic Healers Hui Facebook Page for more information.

Another dies in Louisiana's Death Alley



The death of environmental activist Geraldine Mayho, pictured above holding megaphone at a Coalition Against Death Alley march last May, has brought environmental activists together to 'Honor One of Their Own.' Some at her funeral wore yellow t-shirts emblazoned with her image and the words, "A true warrior gone home." Sharon Lavigne said, "Geraldine's death won't silence her ... she was a fighter ... we won't let her death be in vain." Geraldine Mayho lived in St. James, Louisiana, across the street from storage tanks. Her health was compromised by her sensitivity to chemicals, a medical issue one of her doctors noted two decades earlier. She knew storage tanks often leak the carcinogen benzene and other air pollutants, and with more petrochemical plants being built nearby (over 200 are in the region), she desperately wanted out of the neighborhood, but could not afford to move. On August 7, her body was laid out to rest in the St. James Catholic Cemetery in southern Louisiana, across the street from a cluster of oil storage tanks. The tanks, like those that surround her neighborhood, are emblematic of the type of polluting industry she spent her last years rallying against. This information has been excerpted from photo journalist Julie Dermansky's coverage at www.desmogblog.com/2019/08/10/death-louisiana-cancer-alley-st-james-mayho

PHOTO/JULIE DERMANSKY

Governments fiddle as climate crisis approaches point of no return

By Orin Langelle, Global Justice Ecology Project

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS — The Resurgence: 2019 North American Forest and Climate Movement Convergence intends to bring grassroots environmental, Indigenous Peoples and social justice advocates to take immediate measures regarding the climate crisis. The gathering will take place from October 11 to October 14, 2019—ending on Indigenous Peoples' Day in southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest.

This is a call to action to radically transform the economic and political systems that drive climate change, forest destruction and the commodification of life—a convergence with strategic action sessions to discuss and begin to implement bold new 'out-of-the-box' plans for concrete actions toward the fundamental transformations needed.

Organizers stated that it is up to the people to try and stop upcoming climate chaos. Forests, communities and the Earth are under attack. Governments, corporations and elites in North America are collaborating with others to consolidate power, profit and control on a global scale. Their actions are driving climate change and destruction of forests, causing mass-extinction of species, devastating communities, and threatening whole peoples and the entire biosphere.

The convergence will include people working on the interconnected issues of forest destruction, climate change, Indigenous sovereignty, racial and gender oppression, corporate domination, fossil fuel extraction, and social and environmental injustice to build a powerful movement that can radically transform the economic and political systems driving planetary and human destruction.

The Coordinating Committee of The Resurgence consists of the Indigenous Environmental Network, Global Justice Ecology Project and Shawnee Forest Defense! Working Groups include many other groups and individuals.

The Resurgence: 2019 North American Forest & Climate Movement Convergence: www.forestclimateconvergence.org

The truth is the system in America is a fraud



By Reverend Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — When I say the system in America is a fraud, I mean we have the most corrupt system in the world.

The court system is rigged

especially to destroy Blacks and all other minorities. Judges preside over phony trials, often influenced by corporate interests. Extortion by prosecutors and defense lawyers who refuse to defend his or her client is common, and unjust.

The phony courts are a danger to every individual who risks entering Berrien County territory, where I live. Known as one of the most corrupt counties in the world, it is led by evil judges such as Dennis Wiley, Sterling Schrock, Charles LaSata, Art Cotter, and we cannot forget the county prosecutor, Mike Sepic. All care about Whirlpool, the largest corporation in the region—not the poor.

You can easily be the very next victim in Berrien County: the innocent sent to prison for the rest of your life or strapped to a table and put to death or robbed of your life savings by a lawyer who cares less about you, but wants all of your money. If you are a mother, beware that your child can be taken without a reason and no lawyer, even if they wanted to, can protect you and your child because of the corruption of Berrien County Family Court. The corruption is well known, but also well hidden by the fake news service of the Herald Palladium newspaper (owned by the wealthy Paxton family in Kentucky).

Another part of the corrupt system here is Lakeland Hospital,

which has an outstandingly poor record of not caring and serving Black patients and placing thousands of Black lives at risk. The pediatric unit reported there is too many infant deaths yet infant deaths continue to rise in Berrien County. The problem is nobody really cares about Black babies dying.

Corruption and the profit motive facilitates criminal enterprises in the entire country, but it is so common here that it is expected. When common citizens such as racist jurists like Gail Freehling interact with government, they add to and are part of the corruption.

We are seeing a new level of disaster and tragedy in the coun-

try. Most shocking is the mistreatment we see of the poor, the elderly, the women, and the children. We see water issues. Water is a human right. It is said you must have clean water. Yet the families of Benton Harbor, Michigan and elsewhere are struggling with the poisoning of their water, and our children and elderly are dying. My good friend Claire McClinton from Flint said, “What good is it if you can go to the store and get lead free paint and go to the gas station and buy lead free gas, but you cannot go home and get lead free water?”

We must stop worshipping profits and start standing up for the people. There are more of us than them.

Yes, it takes money, too Make the People's Tribune October fund drive a success!

A new reader who is homeless told us, “When I saw your paper, I gave it to others and said read it. ... I want to use the paper to awaken people to homelessness and that government is doing nothing to get people off the street. If I can get some papers, I'll go around to McDonald's, Burger King, the hospitals, and stick these papers around, getting people to pay attention. I will ask for donations, too!”

Readers want the *People's Tribune* and its sister bilingual publication, the *Tribuno del Pueblo*, because it is a voice of millions of everyday people fighting to survive in an America in crisis. And it helps build connections among the fighters and awareness that together we can create a whole new society and world.

We rely entirely on donations from our readers and don't take corporate money. As part of our fund drive from Oct. 1 to 31, we need our readers to do something to raise funds

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Thank you!

Los Angeles immigrant rights protest.
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