



Ecumenical Peace Institute
The Northern California Chapter of
Clergy & Laity Concerned (EPI/CALC)
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Planted by the Waters

Spring, 2023

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## COSPONSORSHIP

EPI is cosponsoring the online event: [Pluralism And Peace, A Conversation](#), sponsored by the Western Institute for Social Research ([wisr.edu](http://wisr.edu)) Saturday, May 27th, 2023, 10am-12pm Pacific Time (Berkeley, California, USA) Zoom Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqOCgrTMvE92nATeJ22u2ZqfARMmzs58D>



## **GOOD FRIDAY 2023**

### **Interfaith Service of Worship and Witness at Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab**

The Ecumenical Peace Institute, along with the Livermore Action Coalition (LCP), again hosted and the theme on April 7th was *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* taken from Dr. Martin Luther King's 1967 book of the same name. For the Order of Worship program, including the call-and-response readings, a podcast and youtube video link, visit our website, [www.epicalc.org](http://www.epicalc.org)

The program began with "MorningSong" selections by Betsy Rose: "Morning has Broken," "Peace in my Heart," "We Shall Not Be Moved," and "Holy Ground.

Isabella Zizzi of the Northern Cheyenne, Arikara and Muskogee Creek Nations honored the land and its ancestors. Farha Andrabi Navaid, of Mountain View Palo Alto Musalla (Muslim worship & community center), gave an invocation.

About 24 minutes in (see youtube video), Benjamin Mertz and Francisco Herrera performed "Ella's Song" (Bernice Johnson Reagon) (*We who believe in freedom cannot rest...until it comes.*)



Marylia Kelley gave an update on the work at the labs. Here is an excerpt of an excellent [article by Marilyn Bechtel of Peoplesworld.org](#).

“We lift up the life and the incredible work of our friend, Daniel Ellsberg, as he struggles with a likely fatal cancer,” she said. “Dan’s contributions to peace, justice, government accountability, openness, and the abolition of nuclear weapons cannot be overstated. He has asked all of us to continue the struggle, and here, on this day, at the Livermore Lab gates, where Dan has risked arrest many times, we answer that call.”

While workers inside the fence line will tell her that nuclear deterrence keeps the peace, Kelley said, “In truth, it does the opposite.” Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine turns the myth of nuclear deterrence on its head, while the U.S. used nuclear weapons literally at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and has used them virtually in veiled and not-so-veiled nuclear threats over the decades.

“Today,” she said, “U.S. nuclear policy is at an inflection point. Rethinking our people’s safety and security is essential. Escalating the funding for multiple novel warheads carries financial, technical, health, and deep moral risks, while it intensifies nuclear dangers globally and adds fuel to the fire of a spiraling global arms race.”

With the U.S. and Russia having some 90% of the world's nuclear weapons, and the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons challenging nuclear weapons states and their allies to reexamine the role of the weapons in policy and practice, Kelley said, "bilateral and multilateral diplomacy must be soberly considered and creatively centered in U.S. actions."

With the Biden administration's military budget request for fiscal 2024 now totaling \$886 billion, "more than last year's, which was obscenely more than the year before," Kelley said we must consider Dr. King's words: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."

She said over 80% of more than \$2 billion specifically requested for Livermore Lab is earmarked for nuclear weapons, including one new warhead, the W80-4, intended for a Long Range Standoff Weapon to let pilots conduct sneak attacks with a precision-guided radar-evading nuclear weapon on targets thousands of miles away.

Another new warhead being developed at Livermore, the W87-1, is slated to sit atop a new intercontinental ballistic missile, the Sentinel. Kelley said the W87-1 is the "first warhead being designed with 100% new components since the announced end of the first Cold War," and it is the main reason the U.S. will greatly expand pit production. Plutonium "pits"(spherical shells of plutonium about the size of a bowling ball, and a key part of the nation's nuclear warheads) will be produced at Los Alamos National Lab and the Savannah River Site, with Livermore Lab in a supportive role.

"Overall, this 'nuclear modernization' program is slated to cost the U.S. upwards of \$2 trillion over 30 years," Kelley said. "So, I go back to Dr. King. When you hear what we as a nation cannot afford, I invite you to think about \$2 trillion for nuclear weapons and their infrastructure that the U.S. is buying into without much discussion. We're here to discuss it, we're here to turn it around."

One effective action, she said, is to help build support for H. Res. 77, introduced in January by U.S. Representative James McGovern, D-Mass., which calls on President Biden "to embrace the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear

disarmament the centerpiece of the national security policy of the United States.”

H. Res. 77 also calls on the president, members of the administration and legislative leaders “to lead a global effort to move the world back from the nuclear brink” by actively pursuing new disarmament agreements with Russia, China and other nuclear-armed states, renouncing the first-use option, ending the president’s sole authority to authorize a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nukes off hair-trigger alert and canceling modernization programs.

The resolution currently has 12 co-sponsors, Kelley said, and encouraging one’s representative to join them, or say thank you if your representative is already onboard, is a concrete action to move the country back from the brink. Another is calling on Congress to defund Livermore Lab’s nuclear warhead activity. The websites of the Ecumenical Peace Institute and Tri-Valley CAREs feature more actions the public can take.

“Together,” Kelley said, “we can make this happen!”

Then Benjamin Mertz and Francisco Herrera sang “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child.”

Vivian Zelaya read a partial list of the 24 wars now happening around the Globe, in addition to Ukraine and also referred to 39 countries under economic sanctions. See <http://www.epicalc.org/> for the full lists; also more about [the problems with sanctions here](#).



About 35 minutes in, Kathleen Robbiano led the Elm dance, originally shared by Joanna Macy who brought this from her work in the Chernobyl area after the nuclear disaster there.

About 47 minutes in, after the responsive reading (see bulletin on our website), Benjamin Mertz and Francisco Herrera sang and played the rousing song, "None Of Us Are Free... one of us are chained." Then Fr. Ivan Tou read from the Passion: Luke 23:26-49.



About 53 minutes in, the Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake gave the homily. Here is another excerpt from [Marilyn Bechtel of Peoplesworld.org](#).

Taking up the theme of Dr. King's book, the Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake, presiding minister at San Francisco's Church for the [Fellowship of All Peoples](#), told the gathering, "I first raise the question, what is our 'here,' and where do we go from here? And I think we can certainly say that 'here,' from our political leadership, is chaotic."

Calling the current risk of nuclear war over Ukraine "as great as the world has ever seen," Blake said, "I condemn what Putin has done, I cannot support the invasion of Ukraine. And yet at the same time, I condemn the fact that we send weapon after weapon with no commitment to peace, to sitting down and talking. How do we work this out?"

Blake emphasized that the problems the world faces go far beyond Putin: "We have a lot to do with our own dedication to violence. We have a vile, overarching culture of violence in this country—it seems to be endemic to the systems, institutions, policies, and personalities that dominate our daily plans. We must rededicate ourselves, in our own ways, to stopping the madness before it destroys this beautiful, beautiful planet."



He noted that in his book, Dr. King “called for the full emancipation and equality of Black people.” Together with Bayard Rustin, A. Philip Randolph, and many others, King proposed a Freedom Budget that-among its many provisions-would guarantee annual incomes and universal healthcare. “All of these things in 1967, and where are we now? Chaos!”



At the same time, Blake added, “We are an aspiring people-can you not see on the horizon a new day...a movement even beyond the confines of this nation, a movement subverting dominant power? We must commit ourselves so there can be no past greater than our future.”

One hour and 15 minutes in, after Tony Scarr’s offertory music on the clarinet, Betsy Rose sang “May It Be So.”

Rev. Sally Juarez of East Bay Food Not Bombs/East Bay Food Justice Project and Mark Coplan of St. John’s Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, led the metaphorical cooking of “Stone Soup” with a stone and a bunch of carrots, representing Food not Bombs. Participants from different organizations contributed to the soup by doing what they could: each doing something in our own way to empower one another. JC Orton of the Berkeley Catholic Worker Night on the Streets program donated potatoes; more potatoes from Deborah Lee from the [Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity](#) (who also was circulating a petition to end the Korean war); Diana

Bohn of the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant brought a head of cabbage and spices from Pierre Laboissiere of the Haiti Action Coalition, the Haiti Relief Fund and the Richmond Food Bank.



About one hour and 25 minutes in, Jim Haber (Jewish/Pagan/Catholic Worker) gave the Benediction

Then we closed with "It Seems To Me," composed and sung by Daniel ben Avram

Cosponsors were: *American Muslim Voice Foundation; East Bay Food Not Bombs/East Bay Food Justice Project; East Timor Religious Outreach; Father Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Committee (Newman Hall); First Mennonite Church of San Francisco; Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity; Pacific Life Community; Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library/Community Center; Northern California Communist Party; Northern California People's World; St. John's*

*Presbyterian Church; Skyline Community Church UCC, Oakland; and Tri-Valley CAREs*

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**RAYAN SULEIMAN
AND THE CHILDREN OF PALESTINE**

by Jonathan Kuttab

*“Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me;
for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

—Matthew 19:14

Last night I could not sleep and got up before dawn thinking of Rayan Suleiman, the 7-year-old child who suffered a heart attack, literally dying of fright, when Israeli soldiers attempted to arrest his two older brothers (aged 8 and 10) in the village of Taqoa a few miles south of Bethlehem, where the baby Jesus was born. Israel denied responsibility for the child's

death, claiming its soldiers were only trying to arrest his two brothers and “talk” to his parents regarding stone throwing.

The incident was, in fact, unique. I was unaware that children as young as seven could have heart attacks. It was so unique and shocking that even the US State Department issued a statement calling for an immediate and thorough investigation.

What is not unique, and indeed what is very routine, is the practice of armed Israeli soldiers chasing down younger and younger children to arrest and terrorize. It is routine practice to raid houses in the early morning hours, to “map out” Palestinian homes and arrest the children they seek, blindfolding and ripping them away from the security of their homes and families. What is also routine is subjecting Palestinian children to police interrogations (without either lawyers or parents present) as well as “trying” them before military courts. While most little children are in fact released after a few hours or days (Israeli military law lists 12 as the age of criminal responsibility, and the trial of children below that age is not permitted) yet the trauma inflicted upon the children and the scars violently carved on their psyche for the rest of their lives is now a permanent feature of Palestinian life. Those children killed or maimed are, of course, another story altogether.

It is such practices (and not the supposed curricula of Palestinian textbooks) that creates hatred and resentment and impedes the possibilities for peace and coexistence.

I think not only of Rayan, or of the 8-year-old who was shot with a “rubber coated” bullet the next day in Aida refugee camp and now lies in a hospital, or of the 80 other children shot and killed this year alone, but of all the other hundreds of thousands of children who are scared, frightened, terrorized, and traumatized by deliberate Israeli policies aimed at bludgeoning Palestinians into submission. I also think of the Israeli children who are being doomed to live forever with no prospect of peace or reconciliation with their semitic cousins.

Surely such practices are counterproductive and cannot succeed in achieving true security for the Israeli population. Surely we can get even the most ardent Zionists to see that nothing can be gained from such actions. Luckily, we can do something about this. We need to engage,

however difficult, with Jewish and Christian Zionists in this country to end their silence about these practices and to acknowledge their common humanity with Palestinian children. We can also contact our representatives and demand an end to US complicity in such inhumane acts.

Representative Betty McCollum's bill (H.R. 2590), requiring that US military aid not be used for the military trials and abuse of children, should be enacted into law-thus conditioning the massive amounts of US military aid to Israel on at least some measure of humanity towards children. As an organization, FOSNA has proudly endorsed this bill.

The campaign to end the use of military courts ("No Way To Treat a Child") also merits our support and advocacy. We may not be able to bring peace to Israel/Palestine any time soon, but there is no reason not to end immediately the abuse of Palestinian children, actions which bring no security to Israel but cause such great anguish and sorrow to anyone who has a conscience. <https://ifamericansknew.org/>

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God."

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## **EMPIRE: SECRETS & LIES: Telling Us What They Don't Want Us To Know**

Last October 2nd, 2022, EPI hosted a program with speakers Marjorie Cohn and Nora Barrows Friedman on Julian Assange, Shireen Abu Akleh and attacks on freedom of the press worldwide. [You can still watch the youtube video here.](#)

Author and journalist Nora Barrows-Freidman, an editor at The Electronic Intifada, who reported on the May 11, 2022, assassination of well respected, prominent, Palestinian/ American journalist, Shireen abu Akleh, asked the question, "What was the Israeli army doing in Janeen?" Janeen is the West Bank city where Shireen was assassinated. Shireen was preparing to document the mass arrests and illegal transfer of the Palestinian prisoners into Israel, which is a violation of the 4th Geneva Convention. Investigations by CNN, Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations, and Amnesty International, into the assassination of Shireen, all verified that she was directly targeted by an Israeli sniper. Nora showed a short Al Haq, Forensic Architecture documentary proving beyond any doubt, the intentional targeting of the journalist by an Israeli sniper. Nora remarked on the ongoing 74 year policy of impunity with which the U.S. State Department and other western governments have shielded Israel from consequences of their violations of international law. Nora mentioned 425 documented Israeli violations against Palestinian journalists, media personnel and press facilities in the Gaza strip since January 2000 in which 26 journalists were killed and more than 300 injured and hundreds of media facilities destroyed. How many journalists who, like Shireen and Julian, tell us truths that our governments don't want us to hear, will continue to lose their lives for the truth?

Law professor, author, international lecturer, and past president of the National Lawyers Guild, Marjorie Cohn, educated us on the plight of journalist Julian Assange. EPI Board member, Daniel Zwickel commented afterwards: *Free speech and freedom of the press are under assault as never before. Our very society is at peril, for one might be imprisoned simply for telling the truth and reporting war crimes. The conviction of Julian Assange would codify trumpism into law. This is urgent. Inaction could kill Julian Assange, and his blood will be on all of our hands. HALT THE EXTRADITION. FREE JULIAN ASSANGE. Our persecution of Assange for being a journalist is unconscionable, and sends a chilling message to ALL journalists, that exercising of free speech can get you jailed and even killed. Is this democratic? Is this America? Exert all your power to help Julian Assange. Put it off and HE WILL DIE.*

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Francisco and Maria Christina Herrera

"DESVERGÜENZA" Facing Shameless Violence in Mexico

Planted Interview with Maria Christina Herrera with translation by Francisco Herrera: [Caminante Cultural Foundation, Inc.](#), October, 2022

We are living through a shameless period by seeing what is going on that people are living through in Mexico. For example, the experience that migrants from all the countries are having. The reality of war that's going on in Mexico. For example, the shameless blatant violence and abuse of human rights is forcing to people to emigrate. So the shameless have pulled out all the stops on drug trafficking cartels. It's a lawless land where the cartels can kidnap migrants and enslave people to work in their drug deals,

selling people, ... that creates a shamelessness at a social level where people are becoming filled with fear that is becoming normalized. The people are not making money in the drug war. The government is making the money—they hire the cartels to be their paramilitary groups. The social shamelessness means that youth are moved into glorifying the blatant lawlessness and violence without limits. 16 to 30 people are murdered every day in Mexico right now. All the stops are pulled out. There is no limit. Violence and chaos rules. People need to adapt or go from home to work and home to church or school. –just basic functions. It also creates a distortion of reality where young people admire the violence.

Question: What do people in the USA need to be aware of in regard to how they can help? Francisco: John Lindsay-Poland talks about the shameless distribution of arms to Mexico.;1) There is a tremendous flow of arms to Mexico; 2) Mexico has been turned into an immigration wall to prevent immigrants from coming to the USA; 3) The USA should stop supporting companies like Monsanto that destroy the agriculture for farmers; 4) free trade has devastated the countryside; and 5) the demand for drugs from the USA has led to the drug trade has becoming a counter insurgency program which prevents reform and revolution.

Everyone is involved in drugs rather than getting a better education. Social leaders and activists easily become murdered. A journalist friend of their who brought up social issues was murdered in the guise of the war on drugs. People live as slaves using survival skills. The level of violence and chaos is very wide. If a union leader is murdered, there is no investigation. Social workers or even protestors get sucked into the violence of the drug war so they become violent actors, not social actors. The government is doing the work for the United States in terms of pushing economic policy that makes corporations richer and enslaves working people; immigration controls stop stop people from fleeing the violence.

What else can people in the USA consider doing to help? [Support the Caminante Cultural Foundation](#) which has projects for 7 to 15 year olds to raise livestock. They are raising money for trainings. They do it very slowly and humbly; the minute the cartels find out, they lose it. They call it “My little barn with love” or “Mi Granjita Con Amor.” They sponsor people to people projects.

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Photo from website for [Haiti Action Committee](#)

## INVOKING THE FLOOD

*Poem by Carolyn S. Scarr, program coordinator for Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC and an active member of Haiti Action Committee, © 1995*  
[Also see the video of the Poetry Fundraiser for Haiti Action Relief Fund.](#)

Sudden rain descends outside our dining room.  
Drops the size of thimbles strike the courtyard awning  
in rackety thunder.

People run to bring cushions in from chairs  
take down clothes from the line  
shut windows.

Run-off from the brief downpour  
converges on the city below  
built on the dump.

The child care center is knee-deep in brown water.  
Mud and garbage flow in a filthy slurry  
from surrounding suburbs down to Cité Soleil,  
the city of the sun.

A wall surrounds the city of toil  
where people slaved for a dollar a day  
in cavernous buildings now echoing empty.  
In the brief rain unsound foundations crumble.  
The wall goes down crushes lean-to shacks.  
Five people die.

Laws of gravity, reverse!  
Water, flow uphill!

Cleanse of filth the city of darkness.  
Purify each crack and corner  
of the city of greed.  
Wash clean our lives.  
Prepare us to build a city of light.

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HAITI ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

***From Counterpunch:** The most salient example of the collusion between the “gangs” and the PHTK regime is the G9 federation led by former police officer Jimmy Cherizier, aka “Barbecue”. Cherizier created the “G9 Family and Allies: in 2020 as an alliance of 9 different “gangs” in Port-au-Prince. Cherizier’s symbiotic links with the PHTK regime are overwhelmingly clear. As widely reported in the Haitian media, it was the suggestion of high-ranking PHTK officials to create the federation of “gangs” that took the name G9 Family and Allies.*

***Press Release By women’s and popular organizations in the Grandans department of Haiti:** This statement expresses solidarity with the neighborhoods of Bele, Solino and other working class areas where residents have been continually attacked by paramilitary death squads working with the Haitian police. Over the last few months, these death squads have assaulted over 20 urban and rural neighborhoods -- burning homes, raping women, killing women, men and children, and displacing hundreds of families in what amounts to a military terror campaign against the population. [Please] read this powerful statement and spread it far and wide -- and that we can come together to strengthen our solidarity with the Haitian people in the face of this terror. <https://haitisolidarity.net/>*

Jeremi, March 17, 2023

We members of women’s and popular organizations in the Grandans department raise our voices in solidarity with all women and men who are the victims of kidnappings, rape, assassinations, home burnings and pillage that the G9 gang and all the other gangs are perpetrating against the population.

We strongly condemn the dictatorial and criminal government of Ariel Henry along with the United States, France, Canada and the Core Group

that have imposed Henry on the Haitian people. They continue to support him with weapons and money despite all the crimes against humanity conducted by the government against the people.

Videos, photos and media reports by the victims and witnesses describe how the police, combined with gangs, committed atrocities against women, men and children. Nothing was said for the victims, the justice system is silent, and all the authorities- Haitian as well as the foreigners who are occupying the country - are silent.

As the people of Haiti continually attest, we women in the Grandans are clear that since the coup d'etat of February 29, 2004, this has been the plan to wipe out the Haitian people and our country. We call on all women's organizations, popular organizations, students and all to stand against this system that generates the high cost of living, misery, corruption and rape that are destroying our lives. We call for the solidarity of people throughout the world so that democracy can again triumph in Haiti to uproot this blood-thirsty system.

For authentication: Jeanette St. Juste, S-G

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*Left: the late Jim Forsyth, right: Silvia Brandon Pérez*

## INTERSECTIONS

*This is a short exercise in learning to connect the dots: Two essays (my journey) on geopolitics and activism, by Silvia Brandon Pérez (part of a new book, soon to be published)*

In 1957 a sensitive American official overseas said that it seemed to him that our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution. During the past ten years we have seen emerge a pattern of suppression which has now justified the presence of U.S. military advisors in Venezuela. This need to maintain social stability for our investments accounts for the counterrevolutionary action of American forces in Guatemala. It tells why American helicopters are being used against guerrillas in Cambodia and why American napalm and Green Beret forces have already been active against rebels in Peru.

It is with such activity in mind that the words of the late John F. Kennedy come back to haunt us. In 1962, he said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken, the role of those who make peaceful revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investments. I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

We remain unaware of these intersections at our own peril, intersections between the policies of racism (including especially the targeting of indigenous populations of the world), and the funding of worldwide economic and military policies forcing mass migration and criminalization of that migration. In the United States and in other countries now, we are beset by the images of the fleeing children, children who, much as the innocent Gaza babies massacred by Israeli gunfire, are fleeing unending violence, including the violence of desperate hunger. We have indeed 'scorched the earth' with our greedy consumption, our egotistical

assumption that we are entitled to the best, that we are, indeed, the best, and all others must take whatever crumbs may fall from our table.



## **DAY 1 IN FORTHCOMING BOOK: PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS FOR A WORLD IN FEAR**

*By the "Left Reverend" Silvia Antonia Brandon-Pérez. This book has prayers and meditations as well as sayings from individuals such as Jimmy Carter and Paul Farmer, thoughts from Joan Chittister.*

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. - I Corinthians 13:1-7

I hold space for the planet and for all of the moral undertakings, embracing myself in the process. AND I embrace humor, the Christ who laughs, the God with a sense of humor, she who speaks, like Yoda, backwards...

Taking dictation from Spirit every day in every way.

Every day, reconciliation and forgiveness, reconciling with myself first.

Ishq Allāh Ma'būd Lillah - God is love, lover, and beloved.

"If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?"

I continue to repeat the Ho'oponono prayer from Hawai'i:

I love you. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you.

I love you. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you.

I love you. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you.

Rebuilding the world one small act at a time. One gesture, from my own brokenness, at a time.

I go out in that boat that appears to be sinking, and I trust. Matthew 8:23-27.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness. Isaiah 35:8

It has become beauty again.

In beauty all day long may I walk.

Through the returning seasons, may I walk.

On the trail marked with pollen may I walk.

With dew about my feet, may I walk. - Prayer from the Navajo or Diné, which means The People

I hold a space for my own needs. I put the oxygen mask on first. I rest when I need to rest. I am a warrior for myself, that I may be a warrior for others.

May we all turn heartbreak into loving kindness.

My "job" is to "show up" and to keep on writing.

My gratitude journal today begins and continues, because I am grateful for a multitude of things.

My rage is righteous "cleaning the merchants off the temple."

The best of the people who helped me with hospice for my friend María de la Luz, who died in my bedroom, was from East Africa, and she shared a similar proverb to the West African one that says: when you pray, move your feet! She said that when you do something just because, you benefit the generations before and after you. The best definition of karma I have ever heard...

I am continuing to work on my love affair with the dark-skinned Palestinian Jew that was murdered by the Empire of his time for subversion of empire. And remind everyone that borders are fake things we have created so we can control and despoil workers... Working also on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the world community adopted after the Holocaust and the end of World War II.

Continuing to be grateful for the large community that encompasses countries and languages, cultures and belief systems, and for the larger community in this magnificent planet.

We are all relations. May we learn to laugh together, and to stand together, and to pray with our hands, allowing our hands to make things, to plant and water things, to hug others, and to bring comfort to others.

I celebrate everything and everyone, and sunlight and darkness, and all created and uncreated things.

"The holiest place on Earth is where an ancient hatred has become a present Love." ACIM.

In the King James Bible, the "Our Father" or "Lord's Prayer" says: Abwoon d'bwashmaya, which was translated to "Our Father which art in Heaven." Ab is a middle Eastern root which refers to all fruit, all germination proceeding from the source of Unity. It is an ungendered root! Neil Douglas-Klotz whose book "Prayers of the Cosmos" I am currently studying, says that it could have been translated to "divine parent." Aramaic, he says, is rich in sublime wordplay...

I matter. I count. And I say amén, (etymology from Hebrew: Truth).

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CALC delegation in front of Window Rock: (Left to Right) Dennis Jennings, Kerry Loupe, Robert Mendoza, Pam Montanaro, Kavi Montanaro, Diane Thomas, Marti Reed, George Rodkey.

This picture is from *Planted*, March/April of 1986, showing a delegation to the Big Mountain area.

DENNIS JENNINGS, ¡PRESENTE!

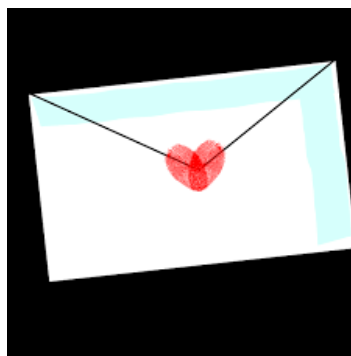
[Dennis Jennings, Sac and Fox and Quapaw, passed away in June, 2022](#), at his home in Oklahoma. We remember him as an important board member of EPI/CALC in the 1980s in the San Francisco Bay area. He gave talks on unlearning racism and while also working with the International Indian Treaty Council, advised EPI on Native American struggles. Part of that work was helping to organize delegations to the Big Mountain area of Arizona where the Navajo and Hopi live.

Marilyn Jackson of EPI worked with him on the Year of Black Hawk in Rock Island, IL in 1988 (where Marilyn grew up and where Black Hawk, the Sac chief had lived 150 years before). After that, in the early 1990s, they helped raise awareness of Black Hawk in the community of that name in Danville, CA at the Black Hawk Museum and Plaza.

Jennings [was part of the Resistance 500 movement that led up to the first Indigenous Peoples Day celebration in Berkeley, CA, for which he was the first coordinator](#). He organized Soapbox Chautauqua gatherings and house parties among other events, leading up to the first annual Pow Wow for the newly named Indigenous Peoples Day in October of 1992 (aka Columbus Day). For more information, check out John Curl's book, *Indigenous Peoples Day, Handbook for Activists & Documentary History*, Berkeley, CA: IPD Press, 2017. Contact info@ipdpowwow.org and/or epicalc@gmail.com to find out how to get a copy of this book.

EPI extends its condolences to his family and friends.

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## DONATIONS AND MORE....

*In order to conserve our natural resources, this issue of Planted by the Waters may not have an envelope but we hope you will still contribute. If each person who receives Planted puts a check into their own envelope to mail to EPI/CALC, or*

pays online through [Paypal](#) ([epicalc@gmail.com](mailto:epicalc@gmail.com)), it will greatly improve our ability to do the work for justice and peace which we are called to do together. It doesn't have to be a lot. Every little bit counts.

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