



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

March/Winter, 2022

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AFTER A PAUSE....

Dear EPI Supporters and Friends:

After a few years' pause due to Covid 19's restrictions, we are honored to share this full newsletter of wonderful articles on peace and justice at home and around the world.

Thanks to the generosity of those of you who continue to support us with your time, talents and financial support of EPI's ongoing work toward creating a nonviolent world. **Please continue this support as you are able by check or [Paypal](#) (contribute to epicalc@gmail.com).**

THE CURRENT CRISIS....

Most of us have not been prepared for the terrible war developing in Ukraine. EPI members are struggling to understand the complexities surrounding this war. We urge all our supporters and friends to keep searching for deeper historic, political, social, and religious knowledge concerning this event. Please keep in touch with us, the broader peace movement and with each other.

We pray that the fog of war will be lifted from Ukraine and its people. We urge the use of nonviolent resistance, ultimately a force more powerful than weapons of mass destruction. We commit our support to comfort, protect and aid the victims of all war-torn regions around our world. Finally, we ask our government to focus on the urgent humanitarian needs of Ukraine's men, women and children, and all nations to understand the pain and endless suffering that Ukrainian and Russian families will feel forever with the loss of a loved one.

Background reading and quotations from EPI Board Members and Network, though obviously this is just a start:

About the historical situation that includes the USA, Russia and Ukraine, here is an article by Rick Sterling:

https://original.antiwar.com/Rick_Sterling/2022/02/24/how-the-us-instigated-the-ukraine-crisis/

From Janet Gibson, about the history of the two Orthodox churches cannot be ignored when it comes to Ukraine, and to Kyiv in particular.:

<https://religionnews.com/2022/02/24/next-year-in-kyiv/>

Silvia Brandon Perez: I do not support the invasion of Ukraine by Putin. I also seriously distrust the United States of America and its deceptive media. Before we went into Iraq, every conceivable lie was repeated again and again by every politician and it was one more time when the United States caused untold suffering upon a country that had done nothing to us.

Carl Anderson, quote from Boris Fedyukin: a fellow "Friend" in Russia . . . In a time of force gone mad, I hope that the power of the Holy Spirit . . . may give each of us the strength and forbearance to stand against the madness. . . each person is deserving of life. The people of Ukraine are deserving of life, of peace and of freedom. . . This morning, I asked my son not to believe his teachers, if, even in passing, they should speak in favor of the rightness of Russia's and Putin's acts of war, and to tell me about them this evening. I will not allow the government to indoctrinate my child with the propaganda of death. . . Act according to your conscience, do not allow the circumstances to destroy you. Hold to those you hold dear, help those near to you, make a public witness for peace, don't give an ear to the blandishments of the propagandists. . . No to war.

Vivian Zeleya, quote from Chief Sitting Bull: The warrior is not someone who fights, because no one has the right to take another life. The warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others. His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who can not provide for themselves, and above all, the children, the future of humanity. Also, War is a racket, by General Smedly Butler USMC 1933

Carolyn Scarr: I think our position must be penitential. We must remember the US overthrew the government in Ukraine which was on good terms with Russia while not hostile toward others. We have surrounded Russia with enemies whom we finance. No wonder they are fearful.

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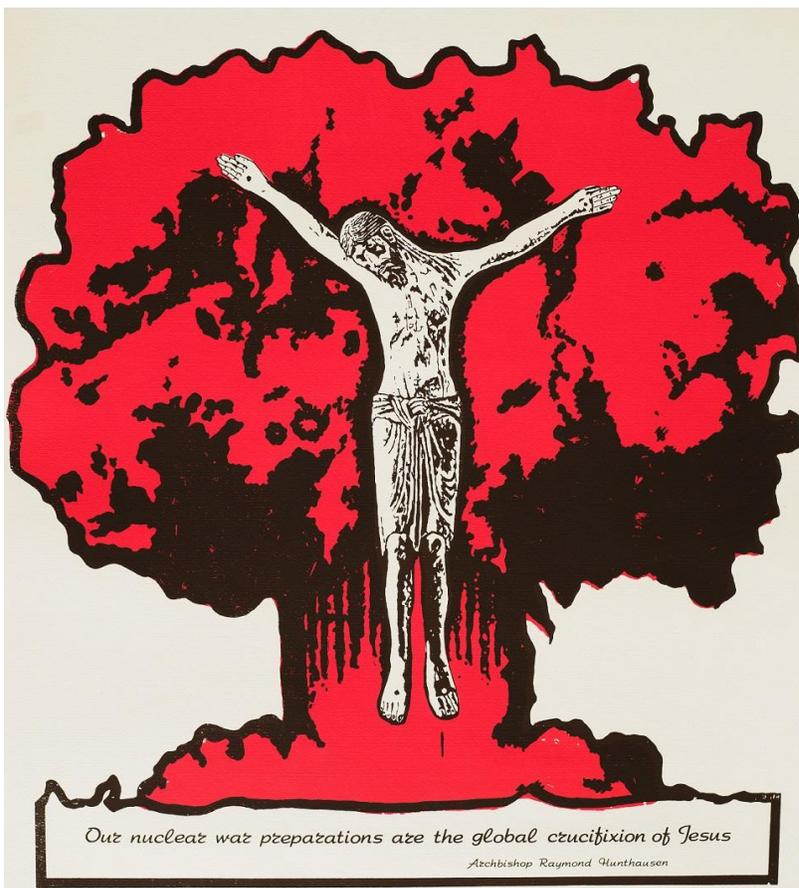
Rev. Earl Johnson, Daniel Zwickel, David Hartsough, Jean and Abe Zwickel from January 17, 1992, the anniversary of Desert Storm
Photo by Gary Reyes, Oakland Tribune

LOOKING BACK.... *Please notice there are links to youtube videos and other articles in this next section. Don't forget to like and subscribe!*

On Good Friday, 2021, our [annual Livermore Interfaith Witness and Vigil was mainly virtual](#), with only essential persons on site at the Lab. We heard from Marylia Kelley and Jackie Cabasso, with Michael Yoshii preaching.

Our virtual Fall Gathering was in November, 2021: [Sanctions and Economic Warfare, A to Z, Afghanistan to Zimbabwe and 39 countries in between. Is it worth the price?](#) In July, we cosponsored the annual [Poetry Reading Benefit](#) with The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund ([HEREF](#)). In November, we cosponsored *Environmental Activists in Honduras are Killed Too*, with The Western Institute for Social Research ([WISR](#)). In December, we cosponsored, *Tea for Palestine*, along with NorCal Sabeel and [Countering the Lies about Nicaragua, Eye Witness Reports vs. Washington Accusations](#) (more at our website [epicalc.org](#)), along with Task Force on the Americas and Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center.

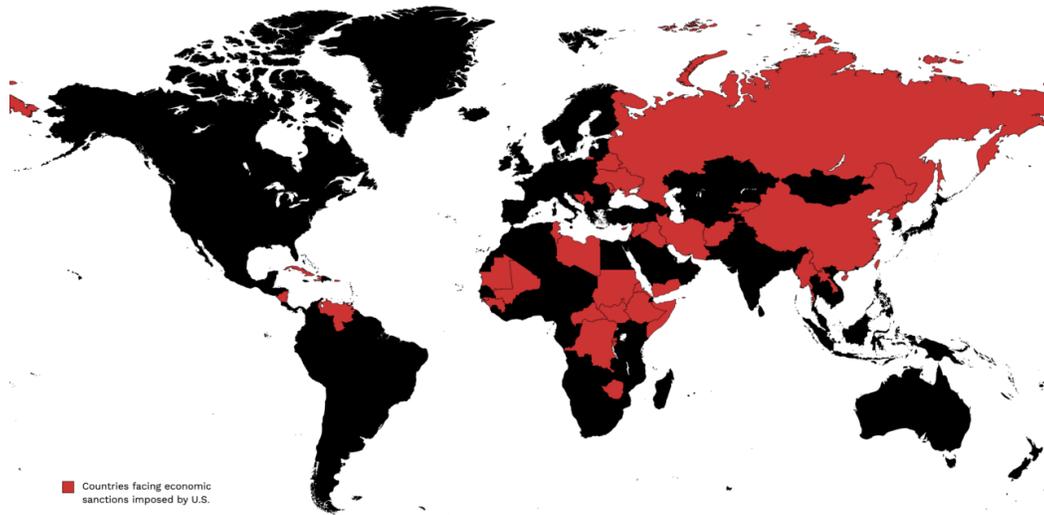
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## GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT, 2022

**Good Friday Interfaith Worship and Witness will be on April 15 this year (the first day of Passover).** The service will be largely virtual though there may be a small, representative masked and distanced group showing up at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory. Our theme will be *It's Tax Day – What does the Lord Require of Thee?* Our guest preacher will be Rev. Allison Tanner, and our featured musician will once again be Betsy Rose. Details will appear on our website as the program is developed.

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Graphic from <https://sanctionskill.org/>

The Price

(Reflection on Sanctions by Carolyn S. Scarr, 2004)

How hard is the choice?
Madam Ambassador, you believe . . .
you think the price is worth
it. It.

It -- five thousand lives.
Five thousand children every month
five thousand children under five.

What child is worth the price?
A gallery of pictures
spreads across my computer screen
girls and boys, their parents,
living, dead and dying.

In Basra two children run out to play.
Bombs fall from U.S. planes.
Now their mother watches weeping
as their bodies are dug from the rubble
of the houses of the neighborhood.
This "it" -- the price

the rising total
reaches five hundred thousand
children under five.
Together with their families now the price
passes one million dead.

What is worth a holocaust?
Who chooses these to die,
the children of Iraq?

The lessons taught across the world,
down the bloody sweep of empire --
the lesson taught and learned
that life is worth the price
when those who pay are foreign,
different, other, far away
pray to other gods, speak other tongues.
Those lives lie in the scale
-- are worth the price.

No life is worth the price.
The flowers strewn amidst the guttered candle stumps
fade and die as we mourn our sudden loss.
New York's dead and wounded
join a massive company drawn from around the world.

Side by side we lay pictures
which portray our common loss.
Thus we may see around the world
women who hold each other,
watch in grief as a child's dead body
is dug from bomb blast rubble.

May we learn from Brian --
his legs cut off beneath the munitions-bearing train
on Concord's bloody tracks,
whence bombs were shipped to Salvador, Honduras and to
Nam, where once he fought -- from Brian may we learn
"We are not worth more.
They are not worth less."

Background:

From the "60 Minutes" segment, "Punishing Saddam" (airdate May 12, 1996)

CBS Reporter Lesley Stahl (speaking of post-war sanctions against Iraq): *"We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And - and you know, is the price worth it?"*

Madeleine Albright (at that time, US Ambassador to the UN): *"I think this is a very hard choice, but the price - we think the price is worth it."*

A munitions bearing train at the Concord Naval Weapons Depot in California ran over Vietnam veteran Brian Willson as he blocked the train with his body.

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## **The Fr. Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Award for Carolyn Scarr**

Carolyn Scarr was recently honored for her dedication to social justice by the Fr. Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Committee. Appropriately, the Fr. Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Award was presented at the vigil on the western edge of the University of California, Berkeley, campus. The vigil celebrated

the one year anniversary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, January 22, 2022. That event was chosen for the award because the prohibition of nuclear weapons is a cause close to the heart of Carolyn Scarr, who has long been an organizing force behind the annual Good Friday interfaith liturgy/protest at the gates of Lawrence Livermore National (Nuclear Weapons) Laboratory. Both Carolyn Scarr and the late, beloved Fr. Bill O'Donnell have been dedicated annual arrestees at the Good Friday protests against lethal weapons, the consequent destruction of innocent human life, the destruction of the planet, and the misdirection of our abundant national resources.

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The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

by Vivian Zelaya

January 22 was the first anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which makes the possession and use of nuclear weapons illegal under international law. Sadly, no nation possessing nuclear weapons was among the more than 80 nations who ratified the treaty. Ecumenical Peace Institute held a vigil in honor of the first anniversary of the official ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, at the

western edge of the University of California at Berkeley campus on January 22, 2022.

The Vatican was among the first countries to sign and ratify the new U.N. nuclear prohibition treaty, and Pope Francis himself went further than any previous pope in saying in 2017 that not only the use but the mere possession of atomic weapons is “to be condemned.” “It has never been clearer that, for peace to flourish, all people need to lay down the weapons of war, and especially the most powerful and destructive of weapons: nuclear arms that can cripple and destroy whole cities, whole countries,” Francis said in his message.

He repeated what he had said at the peace memorial: “The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral.”

In the U.S., Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico (see www.archdiosf.org) is the author of the new pastoral letter calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Wester says “...If we care about humanity, if we care about our planet, if we care about the God of peace and human conscience, then we must start a public conversation on these urgent questions and find a new path toward nuclear disarmament.”

Further, he makes the point that “The Archdiocese of Santa Fe has a special role to play in advocating for nuclear disarmament given the presence of the Los Alamos and Sandia nuclear weapons laboratories and the nation’s largest repository of nuclear weapons at the Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the same time, we need to encourage life-affirming jobs for New Mexicans in cleanup, nonproliferation programs, and addressing climate change.”

In addition to Sandia and Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratories in New Mexico, our country has one more nuclear weapons laboratory here in California, in our own Oakland Diocese, The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. For more than forty years, people of diverse faiths and people of conscience have gathered at the gates of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on Good Friday to conduct a liturgy/protest, including many arrests, in opposition to the waste of our much needed resources on the manufacture of weapons. When it comes to war, and preparation for war, win or lose, the weapons manufacturers are enriched!

In his farewell speech to the American people, upon leaving office, President Eisenhower warned us: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children....This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

Archbishop Wester makes the same observation, "Moreover, we are robbing from the poor and needy with current plans to spend at least \$1.7 trillion to "modernize" our nuclear weapons and keep them forever.

As Pope Francis champions the cause of "caring for our common home", we in the U.S. fund the greatest polluters in history, our own military! Our elected leaders unfailingly manage to find money for weapons, while they quibble over pittances for children, education, public health, elders and the homeless poor. As President Eisenhower said, "This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

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***Urgent Action Alert***  
**End US Support for Dictatorship and Terror in Haiti**  
***No More Deportations of Haitians***  
*by Pierre Labossiere*

February 7th marked the expiration of the term of office for the illegitimate Haitian acting prime minister Ariel Henry. It also marks the date on which the Duvalier dictatorship was overthrown in 1986. Throughout Haiti, popular organizations are calling for the end of the Henry regime and the installation of a transitional government. Yet the Biden Administration continues to insist that Henry remain prime minister, with no mandate and no legitimacy.

Henry was appointed as prime minister by then president Jovenel Moise, shortly before Moise was assassinated. Moise was a corrupt dictator who took office after a series of stolen elections organized by the UN and denounced as “electoral coups” by the popular movement.

His tenure was marked by continuous mass protests demanding his ouster. In the aftermath of Moise’s assassination, Henry was selected to rule Haiti by the so-called Core Group, consisting of the US, UN, France, Canada, Germany, Brazil, Spain, the EU and the OAS, which has maintained colonial control over Haiti’s government since the US-orchestrated coup d’etat that overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004.



As prime minister, Henry has continued the repressive policies of the post-coup occupation regimes, maintaining a reign of terror directed at opposition communities. Paramilitary groups aligned with police and other government security forces have committed a series of horrific massacres, kidnappings and rapes. With the prices of fuel and food soaring, and with the escalating insecurity and repression, Haitians have had enough.

In November 2018, Fanmi Lavalas, the people's party of Haiti, issued a call for a transitional government, called Sali Piblik (a government of public safety) to stop the repression, end corruption and impunity, rebuild the economy and pave the way for free and fair elections. This call has been echoed since then by numerous popular organizations and opposition parties, all demanding that the current government step down immediately.

On August 30th, 2021, these groups, including Fanmi Lavalas, met at the Hotel Montana and signed what is known as the "Citizens Conference for a Solution to the Crisis" or Montana Accord for short, laying out the steps towards a transition to democratic governance in Haiti.

The Biden Administration and the Core Group have rejected the notion of a transitional government, insisting that Ariel Henry remain in office and organize a new round of elections. At the same time, they have attempted to sabotage the Montana Accord by intervening in the process, demanding the imposition of Henry and other members of his reactionary regime, and promoting their own choices for any new government that emerges, all in opposition to the letter and spirit of the Accord. This is a recipe for more stolen elections, more repression, more corruption, and more terror.

As it attempts to thwart moves towards ending dictatorship in Haiti, the Biden Administration has deported more than 19,000 Haitian refugees, in one of the speediest mass deportations in US history. Having fled from conditions produced by US policy in Haiti, they are now being sent back into the US-created nightmare they fled.

This is a time for all of us to stand in solidarity with Haiti. Please call, tweet and/or email President Biden to demand: Stop the expulsions and deportations of Haitian refugees! End all support for the Ariel Henry dictatorship! Call the White House TUESDAY to THURSDAY, 11am-3pm ET 202-456-1111; <https://twitter.com/joebiden>

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HAITIAN BLACK BEANS RECIPE (Pwa in Haitian) *by Maria Labossiere*

Haitian Beans is served with white rice and can be made with other varieties of beans as well.

Ingredients

16 oz Bag black beans
1 cup of coconut milk
1 tbs Salt
1 tbs Pepper
2 tbs Olive oil
1 tsp Ground cloves
1 chicken bouillon
8 cups of water

Step 1 In a 5 qt pot, boil water and beans until soft (approximately 1 1/2 hour). You may need to add water as the beans boil.

Step 2 Once the beans are soft, add 1/2 of the beans to a blender and puree the beans with water from the pot.

Step 3 Run the puree' through a strainer while returning it to the beans still in the pot.

Step 4 Add the oil, coconut milk, salt, pepper and chicken boullion to the pot and stir slowly.

Step 5 Cook the beans on low heat for 15 min and then serve with white rice.

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## TENT OF NATIONS

*By Jonathan Kuttab*

I have been associated with Tent of Nations and the Nassar family for many years. In fact, my law office in Jerusalem has been and continues to represent them in their ongoing legal battles to save their land from the Israeli government and the Jewish settlers who have been trying for years to steal it from them. I myself have participated in activities on their land. One time, I even found myself alongside Rev. Alex Awad and a Lutheran German minister alone with Daoud in confronting the settlers who were bulldozing into their land.

While the 100-acre farm has been in their family since their grandfather bought it over a century ago—and they have the documents to prove this!—the Nassar family’s attempts to hold onto their land and prevent the

settlers from taking it over has been an ongoing battle. Every time we win a battle in the courts, new obstacles are created and new challenges arise. Because their title to the land is confirmed by law, Israel has been using new tactics, including claims for public expropriation and declarations that the entire area is “state land” and subject to confiscation.

Yet the battle has not only been within the realm of the legal system. The Nassar family has had to physically defend their land, nonviolently, from repeated encroachments and attacks, including the burning and uprooting of their trees, the bulldozing of their plants, harassment and intimidation, and constant attempts to destroy the few physical structures they set up. Repeated attempts to obtain building licenses or permits have been denied, and even the construction of rudimentary structures like the building of retaining walls or fences, digging cisterns, and doing other routine maintenance on their property has been met with summary demolition orders and belligerent visits from both the Israeli army and Jewish settlers. Access to their land has been made significantly more difficult, as Israel blocked the main road leading to it with mounds of earth and blocks of cement. They have even refused to allow the Nassars to hook up to the electricity grid. The family’s persistence in remaining on the land has been one of the most remarkable examples of Palestinian *sumud* (or steadfastness) I have seen.

Yet the story of their resistance is not just a political story, of one Palestinian family’s assertion of its ancestral rights. The Nassar family are devout Lutherans, deeply committed Christians who attempt to live out their faith in practice. They have used their property as a tangible example of their Christ-centered commitment to peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence.

They openly declare that they “refuse to be enemies,” turning their property into a “Tent of Nations” and offering hospitality and warm welcome to one and all. While insisting on their rights and absolutely refusing to leave they do not resort to violence but insist on peaceful, yet determined non-violent resistance. Foreign volunteers and visitors from many different countries have visited the site, enjoyed the hospitality, and shared in the work on the land, all the while learning and discussing together the Nassar family’s vision for peacemaking. If there is anything that embodies the essence of Palestinian Liberation Theology, as an attempt by Palestinian Christians to contextualize and live out their faith commitment under conditions of persecution, oppression, and injustice, I believe this to be it.

It was therefore with grave concern that we came to hear of the most recent episode. Last week, fifteen masked criminal thugs from a nearby village attacked and assaulted Daoud and Dhaher Nassar, beating them up with sticks and knives and landing them in the hospital. Those criminal thugs, whose identity must be known to both the Israelis and the Palestinian Authority, have previously made spurious claims to the land and have attacked the Nassars before. Their actions were reported to the Palestinian Authority and the police. In point of fact, they are under court orders from the Palestinian courts to stay away from the land, as they have absolutely no supporting documents or legitimate rights to it. However, the land lies in Area C (which is under Israeli control) and the Israelis have shown little interest in pursuing the culprits or providing protection to the family. Furthermore, the Palestinian Authority has shown little interest in protecting or defending the Nassars with anything like the zeal in which they cooperate in protecting any Israeli settler who strays into a Palestinian town or village. The “security coordination” between the Palestinian Authority and Israel does not extend to the protection of Palestinians.

As we stand in solidarity with the Tent of Nations and call upon both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to provide the Nassar family with a modicum of security and protection, we pray for their safety and support their brave, nonviolent stand. We are confident that their just struggle will one day be crowned with success and that the Tent of Nations might one day become a palace for peace and justice, standing in the midst of a community of people living and prospering together in peace and dignity.

*Reprinted with permission of [fosna.org](http://fosna.org)*



Graphic from Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church,  
Walnut Creek, CA

## **LOVE IN A TIME OF DESPAIR: *THE COVID CHRONICLES***

*Article and Poem by Rev. Silvia Antonia Brandon-Pérez  
(de Forsyth), Taíno Sephardi Rebel Priest*

This morning I read an article by Michael Moore that raised my spirits. My recent tangle with death was interesting and meaningful. Yes, I had Covid-19 and pneumonia. Today was my last follow-up appointment with the person who has been monitoring my pneumonia.

I also received an invitation to travel to my homeland with IFCO/Pastors for Peace. I was born in Cuba in 1949, and was in Cuba when the revolution won after many years of struggle against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, who was supported by the United States.

This was one of the things my late husband Jim Forsyth wooed me with... I had just joined a local Unitarian church in Hayward and he came out and asked me whether I was Cuban, and if so, whether he could have a hug, because he loved my homeland. He had been to Cuba on numerous occasions with the Venceremos Brigade and with Pastors for Peace. He had planted yuca and malanga. He had taken medicine... Lucius Walker had started Pastors for Peace, and they refused to provide answers to the US government when they came back, stating that it was the US that was committing war crimes...

Years later when Jim proposed when we were being arrested in an action against torture in DC, I asked him why he had never said a word about his love of me, and he asked me: what about all the picket lines we walked and funerals we went to, such as Lucius Walker's?

That is why we sang solidarity forever at his memorial service. He was one of the people who was red-baited during the McCarthy era....

The root word for love is the same root word for courage, and it means heart in French. In this terrible time of a pandemic when bullying is the highest sport in the land (and cancel culture and other inanities), we have to keep the light on, as our parents did when, as children, we were afraid of the monsters under the bed. That is what Michael Moore's post is all about. He has thousands of followers, and more and more he is getting posts about depression. I noted that on the celebration of the Holocaust, we had more terrible attacks by fascists everywhere in these United States. Bullying, hatred, ignorance.

I recently sat with my hatred. As an energy healer, I learned years ago to "hold space" for people and their grief. So I sat with my hatred and moral outrage, and held space for them. I think I came back to life because of all the letters I had to write and protests I had to attend to complain about the whitewashing of crimes by the United States against Black and indigenous populations.

The banning of books is an indication of the mess we're in, but again, if we choose love instead of fear, and never ever ever forget to speak up, we may avert the threat of worldwide war being sold to us by the corporate military-industrial complex. Sadly, they sell weapons to both sides of a conflict.

Choose love, which is both a noun and a present tense word. One of my favorite books ever was Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*. Because we can't always change our circumstances, but we can change how we act.

Leave the light on for somebody. Be the good neighbor that Fred Rogers always talked about.

Much love in a time of fear.



*Rev. Silvia Antonia Brandon-Pérez at Standing Rock, 2016*

**February 4th, 2022**

I wake up  
in a messy bed  
in a messy world  
I no longer understand.

Or perhaps I understand it  
too well.

Everywhere I look  
there is endless cruelty.  
I know deep down  
there is also beauty.

There is the woman  
who left bananas on my porch window  
just because.

I bawled over those bananas.

There is the friend  
who is always sick from radiation  
therapy...

He has left multiple messages  
on my phone... telling me  
this too shall pass.

When I was pondering my own death  
from Covid, pneumonia,  
a broken heart  
these acts of love  
improved my oxygen levels...

That doesn't sound poetic  
but it was.

The bowl of chicken soup  
the kitten with her nose kisses  
my sweet furred friend George  
who died in my arms.

I don't know who needs to hear this  
but love trumps hatred.

I came back to love more  
and hate less.

My house has always been open  
as has my heart, even when  
it has been broken.

Again and again  
it has been broken.

Again and again  
out of the brokenness  
has sprouted beauty.

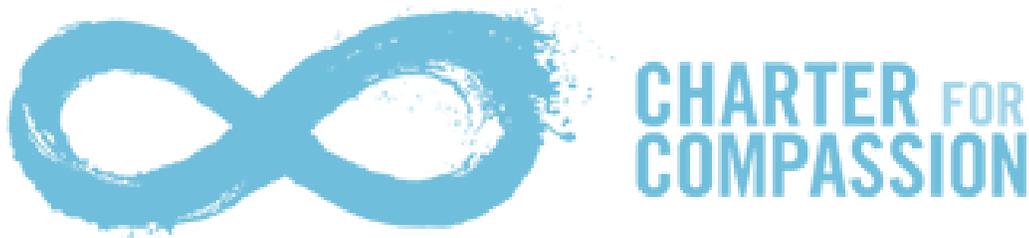
The bread waiting to be kneaded  
and the small wildflowers  
in the back garden  
that others call weeds.

Flowers and the giant redwood trees  
still exultant in the back yard.

I am grateful.  
I am in love with all things.

I am still broken,  
but still able to provide shade  
to others.

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Graphic from Compassionate California

COMPASSIONATE BAY AREA CAFÉ

EPI Board member, Daniel Zwickel, shares his inspiration for starting monthly meetings of Compassionate Bay Area Café.

Theologian and author Karen Armstrong conceived the Charter for Compassion with the three Abrahamic faith traditions with the intent of fostering tolerance and compassion within community, nation by nation, state by state and city by city (in California alone, Downey, Elk Grove, Fremont, Pomona, Redlands and Sacramento, to name just a few). While appreciating the Compassionate movement on a personal (I am a signatory) and a local

level, I felt that it could be a unifying force for good in a region that has a place name, and that is the San Francisco Bay Area, and thus arose a vision of a Compassionate Bay Area.

We now convene a cybercafé every third Tuesday via Zoom, 10:30-11:30am, to engage in conversation, share what we have been doing and to encourage each other, so vital in this era of COVID-19 as an inspirational call to action. We have frequent participation from Jo Ann Gaines of [Compassionate California](#) to encourage us on.



A song I composed begins, *It seems to me that you and I could change the world together; We could make it better by being truly who we are.* As Captain Jean-Luc Picard would say, *Make it so.*

In the Quiet Of the Day/It Seems To Me

In the quiet of the day, the call of our passion we obey;
Look within in contemplation of God's grace.

In the quiet of the day, let the light of compassion lead the way;
Look within in contemplation of God's face

In the quiet of the day.

It seems to me that you and I could change the world together
We could make it better by being truly who we are.
It seems to me, together, we could learn to love a stranger,
Nullify the danger that confronts us near and far.

It seems to me, if we could see the wounds
that must be healed,

We'd move our hearts to yield the compassion
that they bear.
It seem to me the earth could be a garden
filled with laughter,
To blossom ever after with a beauty all could share.
At night I dream, and in my dream
above the hills I'm flying;
Tears of joy I'm crying from the depth of love I feel.
As I descend a hand I lend to one whose fingers fashion
Understanding and compassion, with a touch
that surely heals.
Yes, in the end I find, my friend, 'tis you, my sister/brother.
We find in each other strength we need to carry on.
For in your eyes I realize the joy I find in living
Now, in wonder and thanksgiving I arise to greet the dawn!
Peace and love be with you all;
Grace divine, bestow upon you
As you go forth to live and to serve in truth.

*All music copyright © 2019 by Daniel B. Zwickel (ASCAP)
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Truebadour@earthlink.net*

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Photo courtesy of Adriana Dorantes

## **SANDY HUNTER, ¡PRESENTE!**

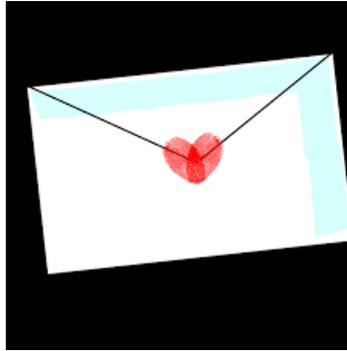
After a long decline, our beloved comrade Sandy Hunter died this winter.

Sandy was a key supporter of East Bay Sanctuary Covenant. She initiated EBSC's Trees for Haiti project which addressed Haiti's deforestation problem.

The annual Crafts Faire, held every fall for people's holiday shopping, was Sandy's brainchild and her major endeavor. In addition to featuring local artists and artisans Sandy ordered items made by cooperatives in various countries -- a benefit for everyone.

As another gift to the community -- Sandy hosted a Buddhist meditation group in her lovely home. In addition to all her other work, Sandy served on EPI's Board of Directors.

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DONATIONS AND MORE....

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