



# Sacramento Area Peace Action Newsletter

Feb-March  
2021

**Working to end U.S. militarism since 1983**

909 12<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 118, Sacramento, CA 95814 916-448-7157 [www.sacpeace.org](http://www.sacpeace.org)

## Join Us Online & On The Street For A Series of Special Events!

As Biden replaces Trump in DC, we need to be asking ourselves: “Are we going to settle for ‘going back to normal?’” For us, the answer must be a resounding “**NO!**”

That old “normal” created a world of endless war, poverty, and misery for millions. While many battled hunger and homelessness, along with COVID-19, wealthy elites were getting

even richer by gaming the Wall Street casino. Overseas, US military and economic policies created chaos, forcing millions to flee their homes, creating a global “immigrant crisis.”

What we - *and the rest of the world!* - need now is a **NEW** normal, one that meets the needs of “normal” people! It’s time for the peace movement to kick some corporate ass!

## 18 years after the invasion of Iraq, US militarism persists. Can't we move toward a human-rights based foreign policy?



CodePink founder  
**Medea Benjamin**

### A Zoom Online Dialogue

Audience  
Q & A  
Follows



Representative  
**Doris Matsui**

**Thursday, March 18th 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

With a new administration and new voices in Congress, we will address new opportunities for positive change to U.S. foreign policy including reducing military spending, closing bases overseas, using diplomacy rather than military force, and emphasizing human rights.

Register in advance at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuqqqDojGdARobalkf1E2h20NuuwwCyn>

The event will be livestreamed at: <https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoPeaceAction/>

*Co-hosted by: Sacramento area Peace Action, Grandmothers for Peace, Jewish Voice for Peace Sacramento, NorCal Resist, Reconciling and Social Justice Committee of First United Methodist Church, Sacramento Action for Latin America, Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights, Veterans for Peace chapter 87, United Nations Association - Sacramento Chapter, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Sacramento Chapter.*

**For more info, email [SacPeace@dcn.org](mailto:SacPeace@dcn.org), or call 916-448-7157**

# Meet Your Board Members!

## Growing Up in Cleveland, Mississippi – Acknowledging the Past

Sacramento Area Peace Action would like to share the memories of a young Michelle Gayle (one of your Board Members, who is still young-at-heart) as part of Black History Month. She was born in Cleveland Mississippi, but left when she was a teenager. Here are a few gut-wrenching reasons why.

Cleveland, located in rural Mississippi, and like many other towns and cities in the South, has been divided for generations. The railroad tracks divided the 12,000 people into a “black-side” and a “white-side” of the town. For numerous decades, blacks attended one high school, and whites another. There were exceptions: sometimes black athletes would be allowed into the white school. Only in the last couple of years have these high schools been replaced by a single high-school, where all children can attend regardless of race. Because of such institutional segregation, both past and present, many blacks either join(ed) the military, or move(d) to Chicago.

Michelle was primarily raised by her grandmother, because her mother was very active in the civil rights movement. So active, that she was chased out of Mississippi by the Klan, who almost killed her with a “brick to the head”. Michelle’s activism, inspired by her mother’s SNCC activism, continues to this day.

The “narrow-mindedness” of Mississippi is what Michelle remembers most, but a couple memories are seared into her consciousness, forever. For example: a young man she knew was lynched (on September 8, 1976), and Michelle has an image of James Calhoun, proudly framed on her wall. Another painful memory: the black valedictorian, who was shot dead on graduation night.

Michelle only lasted a year at her high school, and at the age of 17, had enough and moved away. She occasionally visits, as many family members still live in Mississippi.

## Why Does “Progress” Have To Be Paid For With Human Lives?

Though millions of lives have been lost to the brutality of war and imperialism, we often forget that each one is an individual. In this small space, we want to highlight a few of those individuals, to put a human face on the ongoing human sacrifice.



The first one is Patrice Lumumba, the young 25 year old President of the Congo who was murdered in 1961 by the CIA and other foreign agents. His crime? Wanting to share the wealth his country was producing with of his own people.

The second is Berta Cáceres, a Honduran activist who was killed in 2016 for defending the river that was the lifeblood of her of her small community. Her opposition to the company wanting to build a dam on their river cost her life. Five years later, the people who ordered her murder are still free to threaten others who oppose them.



Behind them are the 30,000 who die of hunger every day, the millions killed in endless wars, and the uncounted victims of racism, misogyny, and religious fanaticism. When are we, the good people of this world, going to stop supporting this ongoing crime against humanity?

*“What a mess they’ve left behind!”*

# Imperialism Has Caused Many World Problems

By *Mario Galván*

Many of the today’s problems are rooted in the brutal colonial adventures of the past. For example, the borders of all Middle Eastern countries were drawn by Europeans, with no regard for ethnic differences.

In Africa, most of the continent was colonized by Europeans who tried to “whitewash” their wars of conquest by creating the myth of “The White Man’s Burden.” They imagined that they were doing a favor to the peoples that they conquered, using artillery and machine guns against natives armed with shields and spears.

Most of the “global south” is poor, not because they lack resources, but because most of their resources have been being plundered



by foreign imperial powers for centuries!

The US was a latecomer to the world stage. But after exterminating most Indian tribes, and conquering half of Mexico, they were ready to look abroad. Like the British, they too believed that it was their “Manifest Destiny”

to dominate the “lesser races,” and reap the riches of the world. Cuba, the Philippines, and their weaker neighbors to the south laid the foundations of empire, and with the decline of Europe in two World Wars, the US became the imperial global superpower. Today, it’s struggling keep that position.

But at what cost? Beyond the vast expense of empire, what is the *moral* cost? How can we proclaim democracy, while denying others their freedom? Now, more than ever, it’s time to say “*No!*” to war, and “*Yes!*” to peace.

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## Call For An End of Endless Wars! - Two Ways in Two Days!

*On the Street!*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH**

**Join us in commemorating  
the 18th Anniversary of  
the US Invasion of Iraq**

**Federal Courthouse Building  
Intersection of 5th & I Streets  
Downtown Sacramento**

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

We’ll have a “People’s Press Conference” with speakers from a variety of local peace and justice organizations.

Make signs and bring them to brighten up the event! Wear your masks and spread out so that we can line the whole block!

*Online!*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH**

**Watch this “Endless War” webinar  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm PST**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/yzh65ymf>

Meeting ID: 926 6931 6630

**Then at 3:00 pm, join us for a local  
Zoom chat to talk about it!**

**Join here:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81978367117?pwd=djl6TFJkaEhvdmFDczVBd040aKlCQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 7836 7117

Passcode: endlesswar

Or call in by phone: 669 900-9128

Go to [www.sacpeace.org](http://www.sacpeace.org) to access  
the links to all online events

## Sac Peace Events

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Monday, Mar 15, 10:30am, Stand Against Voter Suppression and for a Moral Agenda Press conference. West Steps of the State Capitol, 1315 10th St, Sacramento. RSVP. FMI: [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org)

Tuesday, Mar 16, 10 - 11am, Webinar: Medical Apartheid in Historical and Current Contexts with Richard Falk, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories. Click to register.

Tuesday, Mar 16, 12 - 1:30pm, Deadly Iran Sanctions: Lessons from Iraq and Palestine. Click to register.

Tuesday, Mar 16, 6:30pm, Webinar on the Indian farmer protests, that began last year in Punjab in the northwestern region of India. Link to zoom . FMI: [norcalresist@gmail.com](mailto:norcalresist@gmail.com)

Wednesday, Mar 17, 12 - 1:30pm, CSUS Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice 2nd Community Empowerment Faire (online). FMI: [crisj@csus.edu](mailto:crisj@csus.edu)

Wednesday, Mar 17, 9am, Webinar: Space Force - Arms Race in Space. Click to register.

Thursday, Mar 18, 4 - 5pm, The Doomsday Machine with Daniel Ellsberg. Click to register.

Thursday, Mar 18, 4:30 - 6pm, 18 year anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Enough with any and all wars! Weekly anti-war vigil. 16th and J, Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157.

Thursday, Mar 18, 6:30pm, Uniting for a Human Rights based Foreign Policy. Discussion with CodePink founder Medea Benjamin and Representative Doris Matsui (invited). Audience Q & A. Click to register. FMI: [SacPeace@dcn.org](mailto:SacPeace@dcn.org), 916-448-7157

Friday, Mar 19, Anti-war action on 18th anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq. Federal Building, 501 I St. Sacramento. Check back for details. FM: [sacpeace@dcn.org](mailto:sacpeace@dcn.org), 916.448.7157.

Saturday, Mar 20, World Water Day Documentary Festival: Protecting Land, Water and Air is Protecting Life. Click to register. FMI: [candice@soawatch.org](mailto:candice@soawatch.org)

Saturday, Mar 20, 10am - 1pm, NorCal Resist Brake Lights & Community Fix-It. First United Methodist Church in Roseville (109 Washington Blvd., Roseville. Click to donate. To volunteer and FMI: [norcalresist@gmail.com](mailto:norcalresist@gmail.com)

Saturday, Mar 20, 11:30am - 1pm, End the Endless Wars: US Troops Out of the Middle East! Click to register.

Thursday, Mar 25, 12noon, Film: The Hour of Liberation Has Arrived. Part of Arab Women who are revolutionary in the arts series. Click for tickets. FMI: [dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com](mailto:dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com)

Thursday, Mar 25, 4:30 - 6pm, Stop U.S. militarism and wars weekly vigil. Those participating are asked to stay at least 6 feet apart and wear a mask. 16th & J Sts. Sacramento. FMI: 916-448-7157, [sacpeace@dcn.org](mailto:sacpeace@dcn.org).

Thursday, Mar 25, 5pm, Rebuilding Hope: a Benefit for Palestinian Equal Rights & Direct Aid with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi (receiving the Parrhesia Award for free, frank, and fearless speech.) Click to RSVP

Friday, Mar 26, 6:30pm, Poetry and Performance. Part of Arab Women who are revolutionary in the arts series. Click for tickets. FMI: [dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com](mailto:dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com)

Saturday, Mar 27, Short films: As I Open My Eyes, In Search of a City, Peripheral Stories, Mount of Forgetfulness.. Part of Arab Women who are revolutionary in the arts series. Click for tickets. FMI: [dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com](mailto:dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com)

Sunday, Mar 28, Film: Tiny Souls. Part of Arab Women who are revolutionary in the arts series. Click for tickets. FMI: [dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com](mailto:dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com)

Tuesday, Mar 30, Short Films and Conversation with Karina Dandashi and Yara M. Melki. Part of Arab Women who are revolutionary in the arts series. Click for tickets. FMI: [dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com](mailto:dkhorsheed.6@gmail.com)