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the Sacramento Area
Homeless Community Since 1997

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Page 2

Confederate
Flag Protest

Page 3

Mental Health
&
Police Violence

Page 4

Angels of
the Fields

Page 5

Oak Park
Sol

Page 6

Right to
Rest Rally
conclusion

Page 7

Homeless
Services
Info

Page 8

Poetry



HOMELESS ORGANIZE FOR THE RIGHT TO REST

By Tracie Rice Bailey

SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee) joined WRAP (Western Regional Advocacy Project), along with activists from L.A., Oakland, Berkeley, and other parts of California, Oregon, and Colorado, at WRAP Headquarters in San Francisco in late July. This was a three-day working celebration of the 10 year anniversary of WRAP.

These groups from three states are building a national campaign to enact the Right to Rest Act, introduced in state legislature in Colorado, Oregon, and California, to protect the right of all people to be able to sit, rest, eat and share food, pray, and sleep in a legally parked vehicle without being criminalized.

As a gift to our poor and homeless friends everywhere, we held the July 31 demonstration in Union Square - we marched from Powell and Market streets to Union Square - staying mostly on the sidewalks, with quite a good deal of Police protection - how thoughtful of them to send special officers to oversee our demonstration!

The march was wonderful and exciting - it seemed like every hand held either a sign, banner or cell phone/camera to capture the event. We sang and chanted as we marched - stopping for no traffic lights - and we marched slow so everyone stayed together. Many smiling folks came out of the shops

they were in - most doorways crowded with happy faces.

Our first stop was the "BID" - Business Improvement District Headquarters in San Francisco, as the BID's in our different localities are the greatest opponents of our "Right To Rest Act" and for their role in targeting homeless people.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), funded by taxation of downtown businesses in order to benefit shoppers and visitors, target the visibility of poor and homeless people in parks and sidewalks. In many cities, including much

Continued Page 6

Confederate Flag Confronted in Elk Grove

By Cathleen Williams

“Young, Black and with a target on my back!” “End white supremacy!” Chanting, on July 3 protestors gathered on the sweltering asphalt in front of Wild Bill’s Old West Trading Post in Elk Grove, California. “Take it down! Racist flag has got to go!”

Why would Wild Bill’s intentionally fly the Confederate flag from the pole outside the store, a few weeks *after* the killings of nine African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, by a racist who posed with that Confederate flag?

The murderer chose as the site the historically Black Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and deliberately selected those nine congregants engaged in bible study because they were black – mothers and grandmothers, daughters, fathers, and sons. The victims included Reverend Clementa Pinckney, the Pastor and State Senator. It is clear that the store employees *do not understand* what that flag means – how it has been used – for over 150 years of American history.

As the leader of the diverse, multi-ethnic Moral Monday movement in North Carolina, Reverend Dr. William Barber II, states,

“After the promise of Reconstruction...whites could not re-enslave blacks. But what they could do was raise a likeness of the peculiar institution’s symbols to remind them of their (former slaves’ and their descendants’) ‘proper place’ in the South. These memorials reinforced racial inequality in the past. That’s why in a lot of places, when you travel around the state, the memorials are right in front of the courthouses. They were there

to remind black people, as they went into those courtrooms, that Jim Crow is still king; that you are in a state that still does not want you; that you better stay in your place. *They were meant to elicit fear.*”

In the words of Brittany “Bree” Newsome, who scaled the pole on the grounds of South Carolina state capitol and brought down the Confederate flag after the massacre of the Emanuel Nine, “Now is the time for true courage.” Her dread locks flying as she climbed, she refused law enforcement commands to end her mission and was immediately arrested along with ally James Ian Tyson.

“We...decided to remove the flag immediately, both as an act of civil disobedience and as a demonstration of the power people have when we work together. Achieving this would require many roles, including

someone who must volunteer to scale the pole and remove the flag. It was decided that this role should go to a black woman and that a white man should be the one to help her over the fence as a sign that our alliance transcended both racial and gender divides. We made this decision because for us, this is not simply about a flag, but rather it is about abolishing the spirit of hatred and oppression in all its forms.

“I removed the flag not only in defiance of those who enslaved my ancestors in the southern United States, but also in defiance of the oppression that continues against black people globally in 2015...I did it because I am free...”

“To all those who might label me an ‘outside agitator,’ I say to you that humanitarianism has no borders. I am a global citizen. My prayers are with the poor,

the afflicted and the oppressed everywhere in the world, as Christ instructs. If this act of disobedience can also serve as a symbol to other peoples’ struggles against oppression or as a symbol of victory over fear and hate, then I know all the more that I did the right thing.”

After the protest in Elk Grove, the flag came down from the pole outside the store, where it had hung limply in the heat. As Tanya Faison of Incite Insight stated, “We have to stand up to it. We don’t want our neighbors to feel they can’t go anywhere they want.”

Cathleen Williams is a civil rights lawyer, poet, and board member of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee.



Photo Courtesy Francisco Dominguez copyright 2015.

Madness and the Police: Austerity and Violence in Sacramento

by David Roddy

In the early evening of May 21, a worried mother pulled over near Cesar Chavez park to flag down bicycle police officers after being unable to calm her hallucinating 28 year old son. Officers proceeded to shoot the man multiple times, claiming he threatened them with a knife. This was contradicted by eyewitnesses, one of whom told Fox40 News that "I heard no communication between officers and the victim. They kind of circled around him and next thing you know, gun shots." David Mazariegos, a community organizer working for Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, attempted to film the incident but was kicked to the ground by officers and held in a hot car for seven hours before being released. Police claims that the man was threatening his mother were refuted by the mother herself, who later told reporters that she "asked for their help, not for them to shoot my son." Police took the man into custody without giving information to his worried family, as well as denying him an attorney and a phone call.

A similar situation made headlines last January when Lodi police fatally shot Gulf War veteran Parminder Singh Shergill-- who suffered from PTSD and schizophrenia--after being notified by his family that he was off his medications and acting erratically. Police claimed Shergill charged them with a knife, prompting them to shoot him 14 times, but again civilian eyewitness accounts refuted this. Nonetheless, the San Joaquin County District Attorney's office found the killing justifiable, prompting the family to file a civil rights lawsuit against the city and its police department. In grim parallel, the family of 24 year old Johnathan Rose filed a suit against Sacramento County in 2013, a year after calling the police to assist them in handling their mentally ill son. The responding deputy shot Rose to death after allegedly waking him up and assaulting him due to his illness-induced failure to comply with the officer's demands.

These strikingly similar incidents are not uncommon. An August 2014 report by the Sacramento Bee found that 7 of 30 police shootings in the previous two years in the Sacramento area targeted individuals suffering from some kind of mental illness. Nationally, the statistics are even grimmer: in 2013, a report by the National Sheriffs' Association and the Treatment Advocacy Center found that around half of all people killed by police in the United States suffered from some form of mental

illness. Those who are not killed in their encounters with the law face the prospect of imprisonment. A 2013 federal investigation into the incarcerated people with mental illness found that 28% of the State's prison population suffered from a serious mental illness, 45% of those were denied treatment specific to their individual needs. People suffering from mental illness while incarcerated are more likely to endure abuse by prison staff and other inmates, compounding an already tragic situation. The trend of criminalizing the mentally ill complements the gutting of mental health care programs; last April, the Treatment Advocacy Center released a report that state prisons in the United States held ten times as many mentally ill individuals as state hospitals.

Such stories and statistics should not be divorced from their social and historical contexts: the growth of people with mental illness facing either prison or the barrel of a police officers' gun is tied to the growth of neoliberal capitalism, the doctrine of free markets, low tax rates, and the privatization of government services best characterized by the policies of Ronald Reagan. While President, the percentage of mentally ill inmates in

the nation grew to 5%, compared to 2% in 1930. By 2004, the Department of Justice's Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities found that 56.2% of inmates in state prisons experienced a mental health crisis in the previous year, in addition to 62.4% of inmates in local jails. This same era has witnessed the explosive growth of prison populations nationwide while mental health services have experienced a long series of budget cuts. The structural function of the criminal justice system under neoliberalism is to isolate economically superfluous populations, whether inner city youths who no longer have the jobs their grandfathers did because those jobs have been shipped to cheaper markets, or mentally unstable people who have no place in a society that demands individual productivity as the standard of human worth. These categories are not mutually exclusive: a 2009 study by the World Health Organization found that mental health problems were most pronounced in wealthy countries with high levels of inequality, noting that "The adverse impact of stress is greater in societies where greater inequality exists and where some people feel worse off than others. We will have to face up to the fact that individual and collective mental health and well

being will depend on reducing the gap between rich and poor."

In fact, as inequality, police brutality, and prison rates climb, so does the rate of mental illness. Between 1987 and 2007, individuals with psychiatric issues who qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) increased almost two and a half times. A social world built on mass underemployment, job insecurity, and fierce ideological individualism propping up a stratified class system is not conducive to mental health.

The often frightening unpredictability of those caught in a mental health crisis is matched by the often fatal unpredictability of a police force tasked with maintaining a social order run on the whims of under-regulated financial markets. Any comprehensive reform of mental health care and criminal justice systems must therefore be radical in scope: if we truly want to live in a world where bullets are not a substitute to health care, we must first look at the roots of our current economic order and change it from the bottom up.



On June 29, 2015, the Winnemen Wintu Tribe of CA. along with community support from Sacramento's Native and Chicano Communities protested Gov. Jerry Brown's exclusion of California Tribes from the California Water Summit at the Westin Sacramento. This 2 day conference had a \$1500 per person registration fee which excluded most working people. The Twin Tunnels Project and the raising of Shasta Dam were the two main protest issues. Approximately 200 people participated in the 2 day protest. Photograph by Francisco Dominguez Copyright 2015

Angels of the Fields

by Sally Ooms

Every December a Sacramento River Delta event brings joy to hundreds of farm workers' children. Kids from Clarksburg to Rio Vista, communities along the river, come to an invitation-only carnival hosted by the every-growing cadre of women called Angels of the Fields. Highlights of the event are a family photo with Santa and gifts that have been researched for appropriate age and gender.

"Sometimes the kids take their present home instead of opening it there," says Yolanda Chavez, head of the core group of angels. "It might be the only present they get that season and they want to save it to open it on Christmas."

The carnival includes free food booths. Parents take their children around to game booths where they can win prizes, to pick up their goody bags (in addition to their special gift), and to visit Santa. There's lots of entertainment too, like a Taiko group. After the performance, children are invited to bang on the drums.

Yolanda began the Angels group 15 years ago with three other women when she was working for a corporation that served farm workers in Sacramento and Galt. The four felt they should do something special for farm workers, their families and their kids. "Migrant workers receive low pay, bad shelter, bad transportation. Affordable housing is a huge issue. Many are food insecure. They work hard, at times with only beans, potatoes and tortillas to eat. Now we are trying to see that they get nutritional education and connect our events with that.

"There are no health care clinics in the Delta, so people must somehow get to county clinics in Sacramento or rely on home remedies. Some people just do their own cures. Or they go to curanderos."

"There is a kind of underground dental where they just pull problem teeth," says Holly Pauls, another integral member of the Angels. "It's scary."

She also sees housing as a huge issue. She knows of people living in single widows with six children, two families with parents. There is rain coming through the roof and exposed wiring.

The first event the original angels began has become a tradition. Each May farm workers' wives gather for a free day of "make-overs." The day of relaxation includes facials, hair styling and massages. "A day when they are pampered," Yolanda says.

Two of the four original angels have passed away. The group offers college scholarships in their names, about \$500 apiece every year. They also sponsor a couple of farm worker youth for what is called life experiences at a camp in Monterrey Bay. Their umbrella financial agent is now the California Human Development Department as they are not a non-profit. "Just a group of angels who want to give back to the communities in the area," Yolanda says. "We decided back then that we were just gonna do it. We reached out to our own families at first and then we started to grow and grow."

"While our Christmas event is the key event, there are so many things during the year that enrich our program," says Holly. "There are blankets needed for adults, and clothing for young and old, household items. At Christmas the clothing is almost all new and we have an area at the event where they can pick what they need."

Gifts and donations come from many sources. For example, Asoka Ishiura, another core member of the group, says she brought scarves for women from the Sacramento Organization of Chinese Americans. Asoka says the Sacramento Employment Agency, which helps people get jobs and training, has donated pajamas and slippers.

Norma Koch, another organizer, says angels bring their skills and caring from all different occupations. "Of course, a lot have a farming background. Once one person is involved, they recruit the whole family. And young people who were once in the program are now volunteering for us." She says many employees from area companies offer support. Employees of one company decided five or six years ago to give up their inter-office gift exchanges and each give to farm workers' children.

Other entities have benefits for Angels of the Fields. The Moon Café in the Delta town of Locke hosted a fundraiser with musicians and artists' donations. On Labor Day Weekend, the Tejano Festival in Sacramento



at Cesar Chavez Plaza has pledged \$5 of each ticket sold to Angels of the Fields. They also will be featured on the website and have prominence on it for a year.

The Angels will receive part of the proceeds from Farm to Every Fork, the Sept. 12 benefit dinner in Sacramento for area people facing food insecurity. "We've obviously grown," says Yolanda. "Mostly by word of mouth. We are there asking, 'How can we help?' We don't ever have to say much. We just tell people what families need now and people respond. We dabble in everything, wherever we are needed to help. We are 62 angels strong now. We are spreading our wings."



Oak Park Sol: Tara Martinez will help community members learn how to make a perfect parfait with fresh vegetables.

Oak Park Sol

By Sally Ooms

It's the first evening of summer, the end of a long, fairly hot day, but the community garden is a welcoming spot. Families, couples and single folks are strolling in for the third in a series of cooking classes at the tables in back of Oak Park Sol Community Garden on Broadway.

Tyler Wescott, a certified Food Literacy Center "genius," is dividing up what can only be described as beautiful fresh produce among the three tables. On the back, his T-shirt says: "Ask me anything." So I do. Tonight the recipes adults and children will be learning to make are white bean hummus—with squash, cucumbers and purple carrots cut up to dip into it—and SunButter yogurt parfait with seasonal berries on top. SunButter is a brand made from sunflower oil, cane syrup and salt, to satisfy the "unsaturated rather than saturated fat argument," Tyler says.

A major thrust of the organization is to encourage children to eat more fruits and vegetables. And to prove to them that those things can taste outstanding. Tyler will be the instructor this evening for this all-volunteer endeavor. His second in command is Tara Martinez who is lending a hand with teaching the creation of parfaits. She says she formerly interacted with an Obama-supported program that introduced a fruit-of-the-day to schoolchildren. At recess, she would hand out, and teach kids how to eat, everything from oranges to papayas. "The kids didn't know what half the stuff was," Tara says. "It made me sad."

Neighbor Pat has lived here for 33 years and



Young people and adults all want to participate in the Oak Park Sol Garden cooking class to make (and eat!) the fresh treat

is sitting on a bench waiting for the cooking to begin. She's glad that children are being given a chance to become familiar with vegetables. "They wash, cut, stir, mix vegetables they normally wouldn't try," she says. The last session she attended they shredded beets, carrots and onions and topped the slaw with vinaigrette they fashioned themselves. "They would never have tried any of that before," she says. She likes to see the teens participating too. "It's fun to watch them enjoy the results of their cooking. Particularly the veggie wraps they had us make one time."

Farmers with plots donate some of the produce for the classes although most of it comes from other natural food resources. Today the donor is Heavy Dirt in Davis. Honey used in recipes is local, with the thought that people with allergies to various regional plants will find relief.

A crowd of all ages has gathered. There is room for about 10 people per table. Tyler introduces what they will be making today and points to a mouth-watering array on each table. Zucchini's mingle with purple basil. Yellow nectarines, plums and apricots call out to be eaten.

People gather around the tables and begin. Mike Jones, holding baby Gage, looks on while his wife Gina and their other son dig in to help with hummus. The family lives a couple of blocks away. Gina is a vegan, Mike says, so these vegetable-oriented foods really appeal to her.

It is the second time for Max and his mother Rochelle. "He is getting more adventurous," she says with a laugh. "He tried a yellow zucchini and he liked the Asian lettuce wraps and stone fruit salad last time. It is really helping his eating habits with this exposure."

Heather is there with her two sons Elliot and Martin. Her younger son likes to "mix a bunch of foods together," she says. "He'll easily mix sweet and sour." Heather looks down at her son after he has sampled the parfait. "Is it amazing?" she asks. "OK, high five."

Meanwhile, Randy Stannard is nearby showing people the worm box that Sacramento State Environmental Studies Program has made for the garden. Randy is Oak Park Sol board president and works for Soil Born Farms. Soil Born promotes programs that encourage young people and adults to learn how to produce healthful foods, and it mentors future farmers. The focus also is on teaching people to cook what they and others grow, and transforming urban spaces into community gardens.

In general, they focus on green space development, Randy says. "Transitioning vacant lots or any unused spaces—like funny empty corners on a block. We can turn these into productive spaces. It doesn't necessarily have to be a community garden. Some spaces may be

suitable for some sort of housing development. Or maybe a little park instead of dead grass and weeds."

A major focus in the garden is to spread the concept and practice of urban gardening throughout this low-income neighborhood. Individual family plots are 15x10 feet, but all the gardeners take care of other areas of the garden. Within the community space is a kids' garden, a wheel-chair accessible garden, a shade garden and native bee habitat. A greenhouse on the premises supports native plant growth.

The 11,600-foot perimeter is planted with native California shrubs and wildflowers to attract butterflies and native bees. Besides the cooking classes, anyone can come to free composting and gardening classes.

Randy and other food activists worked to see an ordinance passed by the City of Sacramento that promotes urban agriculture and is giving access to land for farmers. The ordinance took effect in April with the "purpose to support production and sale of locally grown foods, build community, increase public health and well-being" and provide economic opportunities in



Never too young to enjoy hummus

areas that have been vacant or underutilized.

These types of actions must be a neighborhood-led process, he stresses. "This community garden was started by the residents, spearheaded by Cara Jennifer Solis. Earl Withycombe inherited the land a few years ago. His family had owned the land since the 40s. The house associated with the land had burned down and he wanted to make it into something meaningful."

Randy says that in 2011, dumpsters started removing debris from the area. "It was full of trash and drug paraphernalia. Now people are gardening here year-round."

Right to Rest S.F. Rally

continued from page 1

of L.A., San Francisco, and Sacramento, it is a criminal offense to "live outside," or even provide meals in public places. As reported by the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), representing a coalition of homeless organizations from across the west, "The needs of homeowners and homeless people, who live and/or use services in the area, are not a part of the BID equation..."

Though there is opposition to the Right to Rest Act by some business interests, at the same time we have gained very powerful proponents of these rights. Just this month, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a Statement of Interest describing the enforcement of anti-camping laws against homeless people who have nowhere to sleep except in the streets as cruel and unusual punishment. This is huge and will greatly impact the success of our campaign.

When we got to Union Square, there were many more smiling citizens crowding the entire sidewalks on the opposite sides of the street - many were just watching while many more were filming and taking pictures of our event, so many hands and cameras in the air. The store across the street had people

in every window, on every floor, many with cameras - the Trolley Car Operator, at Union Square, chimed the bell in cadence with our chants! Nice work everyone - participants, and the spectators themselves, made this a spectacular event....



Above: Tracie with Sign
Left: Street Theatre during protest

WRAP had an Anniversary party where we all shared dinner - we danced and partied and had a great time - I was just being thankful and blessed to be part of this family of 'get 'er done' folks! - WOW!!! WRAP is now 10 years busy - and Colorado is in the House - how cool is that!!

A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:

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Sacramento Loaves & Fishes
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Protest at the BID headquarters

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Resources List

Night Shelters**Salvation Army:** 12th and North B St. 30 days per year: Dormitory living, C&S: Dinner, breakfast clothing for residents: Men/Women: Sign-up SA patio weekdays at 1PM. 442-0331**St. Johnis Shelter:** Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 453-1482**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: 447-3268**Next Move (formerly SAEHC)** 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge; single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 455-2160**Day Shelters****Friendship Park:** 12th St. & North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone: Many services**Meals****Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, Evening meal, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 447-3268**Loaves & Fishes:** 1321 No. C St.: Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays .**Women's Civic Improvement Center:** Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F 452-2866**Food-not-Bombs:** serves free food in Cesar Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.**Foundation of Faith Ministries** 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.**Glory Bound Street Ministry** 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 452-7078**Women & Children****Maryhouse:** 1321 No. C St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.**Wellspring** 3414 4th St.: T&Th full breakfast: M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 454-9688

see Youth Services for young adults

Free Clothing**Sacramento Food Bank:** 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 456-1980**Union Gospel Mission:** 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am signup, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 447-3268**Glory Bound Street Ministry** 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 452-7078**Medical****Mercy Clinic:** For homeless adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. 446-3345**Sacramento Dental Clinic:** 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 874-8300**Mental Health****Guest House, 1400 N. A St.:** Homeless Mental Health Clinic, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8-am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 443-6972**TLCS Intake Offices:** 1400 N. A St. Bldg. A: Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500**Genesis:** Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center). 699-1536**Youth Services****Wind Youth Services:** Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 1722 J Street, M-F 9am-6pm, S-S 10am-2pm: Emergency shelter for ages 12-17, call 1-800-339-7177: Emergency

shelter for ages 18-24, call 916-561-4900. Services also include: street outreach, case management, mental health

Crisis Intervention**WEAVE:** Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 920-2952**AIDS / HIV****AIDS Housing Alliance** provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 329-1093 weekdays.**CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service):** 1500 21st ST. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. 443-3299**Breaking Barriers:** Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 447-2437**Harm Reduction Services:** 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 456-4849**Alternative Test Site:** Free anonymous HIV testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 874-7720.**Legal Aid****Disability Rights, CA:** Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746**Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic:** 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. 446-0368**Legal Services of Northern California, Inc:** 515 12th St. (at E ST.) M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt. 551-2150**Welfare Rights:** 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 736-0616**Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation** (916) 658-1880**About SHA**

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens who promote decent affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

For more info, or if you would like to participate, please call:

(916) 455-4900
<http://sachousingalliance.org>1800 21st Street Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95811*The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.***Veterans****VA Outreach:** 1-800-827-1000**Homeless VA Coordinator:**
(916) 364-6547

Mather VA Social Works: help getting DD-214, any vet. (916) 843-7064

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center
7270 East Southgate Dr. 393-8387**Miscellaneous****Francis House Center 1422 C St.** Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocac.; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. **(916) 443-2646****Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services:** 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 456-1980.**Social Services:** 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 874-2072**Employment Development Department (EDD):** 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300**Medi-Cal:** 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256**Social Security Office:** 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213**211 Sacramento**
Dial 211
for tele-info & referral service**Califorina Youth Crisis Line:**
1-800-843-5200**Health Rights Hotline:**
551-2100

Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!



Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, which is a member of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance or SHOC or Homeward.**Submissions and Editorial Policy**

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed.

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

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ACTA

En nombre de quienes lava ropa ajena
(y expulsan de la blancura la mugre ajena)

En nombre de quienes cuidan hijos ajenos
(y venden su fuerza de trabajo
en forma de amor maternal y humiliaciones)

En nombre de quienes habitan in vivienda ajena
(y aun los mastican con sentimiento de ladron)

En nombre de quienes viven en un pais ajeno
(las casas y las fabricas y los comercios
y las calles y las ciudades y los pueblos
y los rios y los lagos y los volcanes y los montes
son siempre de otros
y por eso esta alli la policia y la guardia
cuidandolos contra nosotros)

En nombre de quienes lo unico que tienen
es hambre explotacion enfermedades
sed de justicia y de agua
persecuciones condenas
soledad abandono opresion muerte

Yo acuso a la propiedad privada
de privarnos de todo.

Translated from Spanish by Jack Hirschman
Roque Dalton was a poet, journalist, activist, and revolutionary.
He is considered one of Latin America's most compelling poets.

ACT

In the name of those washing others' clothes
(and cleaning others' filth from the whiteness)

In the name of those caring for others' children
(and selling their labor power
in the form of maternal love and humiliations)

In the name of those living in another's house
(which isn't even a kind belly but a tomb or a jail)

In the name of those eating others' crumbs
(and chewing them still with the feeling of a thief)

In the name of those living on others' land
(the houses and factories and shops
streets cities and towns
rivers lakes volcanoes and mountains
always belong to others
and that's why the cops and the guards are there
guarding them against us)

In the name of those who have nothing but
hunger exploitation disease
a thirst for justice and water
persecutions and condemnations
loneliness abandonment oppression and death
I accuse private property
of depriving us of everything.

ROQUE DALTON (El Salvador)

HOME

by Jack Hirschman (to the National Union of the Homeless)

Winter has come
In doorways, in alleys, at the top
of churchsteps,
under cardboard, under rag-blankets
or, if lucky, in plastic sacks,
after another day of humiliation,
sleeping,
freezing,
isolated, divided, penniless
jobless, wheezing, dirty
skin wrapped around cold bones,
that's us, that's us in the USA,
hard concrete, cold pillow,
where fire? where drink?
damned stiff in a drawer
soon if, and who cares?
shudders so familiar to us,
shivers so intimate,
our hands finally closed in clench
after another day panhandling, tongues
hanging out;
dogs ate more today, are curled
at the feet of beds, can belch, fart,
have hospitals they can be taken to,
they'll come out of houses and sniff
us dead one day
pieces of shit lying scattered here
in an American city
renowned for its food and culture.

The concrete is our sweat hardened,
the bridge our vampirized blood
the downtown, Tenderloin and Broadway
lights – our corpuscles transformed
into ads;
our pulse-beat the sound *tengtengendeng*
of coins piling up on counters, in
phonebooths. Bart machines *tengtengendeng*
in parking meters, pinball contraptions,
public lavatories, toll booths;
our skin converted into dollar bills,
plastic cards, banknotes, lampshades
for executive offices, newspapers,
toiletpaper;
our heart – the bloody organ the State
gobbles like a geek in a sideshow
that's become the national circus of the damned.

O murderous system of munitions and inhuman rights
that has plundered our pockets and our dignity,
O enterprise of crime that calls us criminals,
terrorism that cries we are fearful,
greed that evicts us from the places we ourselves
have built,
miserable war-mongery that sentences us to misery and
public exposure as public nuisances to keep a
filthy republic clean –
this time we shall not b disappeared
in innercity ghetto barrio or morgue,
this time our numbers are growing into battalions
of united cries.

We want the empty offices collecting dust!
We want the movie houses from midnite till dawn!
We want the churches open 24 gods a day!
We built them. They're ours. We want them!
No more doorways, garbage-pail alleys
no more automobile graveyards,
underground sewer slums
We want public housing!
No more rat-pit tubing, burnt out rubble-caves,
no more rain-soaked dirt in the mouth,
empty dumpster nightmares of avalanches of trash
and broken bricks,
screams of women hallucinating at the Muni entrance
gates,
no more kids with death-rattling teeth under discarded tarp.
We want public housing!
we the veterans of your insane wars
workers battered into jobless oblivion,
the factory young: fingers crushed into handout
on Chumpchange St.,
the factory old: spat-out phlegm from the sick
corporate chest of Profits.
Instead of raped respect, jobs
with enough to live on!
Instead of exile and eviction in this,
our home, our land,
Homeland once and for all
for one and all
and not just this one-legged cry
on a crutch on a rainy sidewalk.

Jack Hirschman, a member of the San Francisco Revolutionary Poets Brigade, has published more than 100 books and chapbooks, as well as paintings and other visual work, and traveled throughout the world to read and share his poetry with the people.