



A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

HOMeward

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The Rent Is Too Damn High

By Cathleen Williams

As Fall approaches, Barbara R. looks for The Letter, lying there in the mail with the bills and advertisements, maybe half hidden. Her lease is expiring. The Letter – the letter from her landlord, that is, triggers a kind of raw fear. All year she's been crossing her fingers, saying to herself, "No, don't tell me you're not going to renew the lease. No, don't tell me you are raising my rent – already over a thousand dollars -- by \$300 or \$400 more a month. We just can't pay."

If the lease isn't renewed, if the rent is raised, she will be searching for a place the family can afford, thrust into competition with thousands of other displaced renters. She has no choice. She has no protection. Average rent for a one bedroom apartment has soared to \$1400; overall, rents rose almost 9% last year in Sacramento, highest rate in the nation. Evictions, too, have multiplied: 22,000 legal cases were filed by landlords last year to

force evictions. (Sacramento News and Review 1/4/18.)

Proposition 10 and the Charter Amendment

But this year there is at least *something* Barbara can do, and she knows what that is. She can vote for the local charter amendment and Proposition 10, the initiative that will allow Californians to vote for rent control in their cities without being blocked by "Costa Hawkins" – the state law that outlaws any rent control on single family homes and on housing built after 1995 (though in some jurisdictions, those restrictions go all the way back to housing built after 1978.) Costa Hawkins also allows rents to go back to market rate when the apartment goes vacant.

The repeal of Costa Hawkins was placed on the November ballot by tenant coalitions and hardworking

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AN ODYSSEY WITH A DOG AND A CAT

By Gisela Feuz

"I know about life on the street. I would paint there every day and was in contact with lots of people for whom the street was their home."

Sitting on the cozy and somewhat worn sofa in his small apartment in Zollikofen, no-one would guess that Slavcho Slavov, whom everyone calls Slavo, has lived through a veritable odyssey. The 48-year-old Bulgarian has just gone through a painful operation for kidney stones. But he has in no way lost his sense of humour. Smiling, and speaking in a deep, sonorous voice, Slavo tells us how he set out from Bulgaria in 2005 on an odyssey across Europe that was to last for around ten years. His wife, Wanja, had died young from cancer and left her husband with two small children. Slavo raised the boy and girl with the help of his mother, but when they turned 14 and 16, more money was required. "My children's education was the most important thing for me," explains Slavo. It was as good as impossible to find a job in economically-

troubled Bulgaria. Matters were complicated by the fact that he had lost his left forearm in a car accident when he was 26. So Slavo left the two children in the care of his mother and took his seat on a bus heading west in order to look for work.

First stop: Venice, Italy. Things were hard at the start in Venice because, with no friends or knowledge of foreign languages, with no money and only one arm, Slavo had no hope of making it in the Italian labour market. But he did not let that get him down. "The most important thing is to have no fear and be open with people. And if that does not lead to work directly, then you have to find your own niche," Slavo says. He started painting pictures outside in public places. He started by using stencils to paint the famous portrait of Che Guevara onto the pavement. Later, he painted small, pretty miniature beaches on stones, which he then sold to tourists as souvenirs. And later still, using



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Photo Courtesy Annette Boutellier

AN ODYSSEY continued from Page 1

powerful colours, he painted the wide sea, its wildlife and natural landscapes on canvas. While Slavo speaks about his adventures on the street, his dog Lourd listens closely and watches every move his master makes. "As a puppy, he looked like a little fluffy toy. A handsome fellow. When he had a drink, he looked at me full of trust and gratitude. I was enchanted."

From Italy, Slavo travelled all over Europe, visiting France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Germany and Greece, where he earned money as a street artist and often slept under the stars or in ruined buildings. In the French pilgrim town of Lourdes, he found everlasting love in the amber-coloured eyes of a puppy dog with a reddish-gold coat, which had been born in the home of a friend. Inspired by the area, Slavo named the puppy "Lourd." From then on, the two were inseparable.

"Suddenly Lourd started barking at one of the ruined buildings, so I went closer, but even though I looked closely, I did not notice anything out of the ordinary," Slavo recalls, as he thinks back to a day of particular significance. "Lourd stopped barking, but remained uneasy standing in front of the ruins. Now I could hear what had made him bark. I heard a faint mewing from the ruins." With the help of the driver of an excavator, Slavo and Lourd rescued a snow white cat that was trapped under the rubble of a demolished house. The creature was in a bad way. Slavo took it to the vet and then parted with several hundred Euros to treat the pneumonia it was suffering from. The cat, which had one blue eye and one green eye, survived and was quickly christened "Matz" (a short version of the Bulgarian word for cat). Since then, he has never left Slavo's side. Straightaway, Slavo, Lourd and Matz formed a trio. "After a short time, the same thing happened with Christin as with Karin. Christin also wanted to run my life for me. She gave me an ultimatum, the dog or her, and it goes without saying: I am separated from her."

During his years of wandering, there have been many women interested in him and who wanted to get him off the streets, Slavo says. But these women would not have accepted his homeless friends or his animals, and he only comes as part of a threesome—with Lourd and Matz. He also has a strong desire for freedom. At present he has no girlfriend, but he is not at all lonely. Even if communication is not always easy - Slavo speaks an interesting mixture of Italian, German and French - he has met a lot of pleasant and dependable people on his travels. "In all my years, I have had very few negative experiences, and have always come across great solidarity. If you are open and decent with people, they will be the same with you," he says.



Photo Courtesy Annette Boutellier

Slavo has also made friends in Bern: firstly, with homeless people and then with neighbours and passers-by, who initially spoke to him about his animals. In spite of the great geographical distance between them, Slavo also maintains a very close relationship with his two children. Nowadays Slavo's daughter is mother to a six-year-old girl and studies geology in Sofia. His son is an IT specialist and lives in France.

After his home near Nice was demolished, Slavo found himself forced to move on in 2010. Aside from the fact that Lourd and Matz cost a lot of money as a result of vaccinations, neutering and illnesses, travelling with animals was not at all easy. Slavo found out that, in Spain, dogs are not allowed on public transport and that, in Sweden, there are very strict regulations for bringing in animals. In Stockholm, he was put in a cell on suspicion of animal smuggling: Slavo had come into the country not knowing the existing laws and had not registered the two animals. They both ended up in quarantine.

"Don't worry, you have to pay 10,000 Swedish kroner (about 1100 CHF), then you'll get your animals back. Where do we reach you? Are you in a hotel?" "No, I'm in a park," he answered. "How does someone who is sleeping in a park pay for buses?" Slavo cried his eyes out because no-one would tell him what would happen to his animals. He might have a strong physique, but his insides are butter-soft. In the end, the story turned out well. "I came up with the money for the Swedish permits for Lourd and Matz," Slavo smiles.

As soon as the trio were reunited, Slavo booked the first ferry to Finland, where, via a stopover in Germany, their travels took them to Switzerland for the first time. "We had lots of time between our arrival in Bern and our onward journey to France. There was a church in front of the station, and I sat down on the steps. While the animals ate, an old woman came up to us. She greeted me in a friendly way and gave me twenty

Swiss francs."

Slavo has never forgotten the warm welcome that he received from the old lady in front of the Church of the Holy Spirit. He wanted to visit Bern again, which is what he did in 2011. From the outset, he felt comfortable there and quickly made friends, he recalls with a smile. Then a friend helped him get a cheap apartment in an old rickety house in Zollikofen, where he has now lived for four years. His home gives the impression of tidiness. In the bathroom of his small, ancient, 2.5 room apartment, you find tubes of paint and brushes next to toiletries and, in the kitchen, there are rows of cleaning products next to the dog and cat food. Plastic flowers and a dream catcher hang on the wall, and there is a crocheted privacy screen on the window. On the easel in the living room is Slavo's current work in progress.

"You've seen what a good narrator he is," says a visiting friend. She was the one who told him to put his odyssey down on paper. And that is precisely what Slavo did over a period of just two months. The result is a book of almost 200 pages, translated into German and printed in Bulgaria. It is the story of his experiences of travelling through Europe with Matz and Lourd, and the story of his life on the streets of Bern. A tower of books in his bedroom is testament to this: 200 copies of the book have just been delivered from Bulgaria.

At present, Slavo lives as an independent artist and holds a Residence Permit B, solely as a result of the sale of his books and pictures. He stresses that he claims neither income support nor receives disability insurance payments. If he goes out with Lourd at his feet and Matz on his left shoulder

- his cat chose this position itself and clearly feels comfortable up there - the trio attract a lot of attention. Slavo also carries a kind of electronic soundbox that he put together himself. Because it is forbidden to draw on the streets in Switzerland, he had to come up with something else, and so he put this box together, into which he built in an MP3 player and a speaker. He was then fined for this, because electronically amplified music is not allowed on the streets in Switzerland, something he did not know. "Nowadays I use the sound box as a book table," says Slavo with a broad grin, exposing a gap in his teeth.

Looking back on his ten-year odyssey as a homeless person, he sees only a few negatives from this time. "There's a lot of talk about racism in society, but that doesn't happen on the street," he says. "Anyway, everything depends very much on how we look at life. If you only look at the bad side, you only see bad things. Switzerland is a country where it does not matter how much money you have. People take you as you are," Slavo smiles. He is unable to confirm whether the usual stereotype of the remote and reserved Swiss is correct. But, of course, there are lots of rules here. "I prefer countries with clear rules: during my years of travel, I always did well in these countries," he says. "I am happy that the three of us have finally found a home where I can work on my new book in peace, because I'm tired of travelling," Slavo says, and gently ruffles Lourd's coat. His next book is supposed to be a children's book. The narrator? A white cat with one blue eye and one green eye.

Translated from German by Edward Alaszewski

*Courtesy of Surprise, Switzerland/ INSP.ngo
Winner of INSP's Cultural Feature Award, 2018*



Photo Courtesy Annette Boutellier

Vote for People

Continued from Page 1

activists, including, locally, Housing 4 Sacramento, the Sacramento Housing Alliance, ACCE, and the Democratic Socialists (DSA). If Prop 10 passes and Costa Hawkins is repealed, these restrictions on local rent control will be removed. The initiative will allow local jurisdictions to extend rent control to single family houses and condos (which cannot be rent controlled under Costa Hawkins) and to housing built after 1995.

Why Rent Control Now?

What makes the repeal of Costa Hawkins so vital to renters in our state? To get the picture, we have to pull back and look at the economic trends that are impacting low and middle income people in our community – and indeed, nationwide.

Since the foreclosure crisis ten years ago, millions of people (10 million nationwide) have lost their homes. Over half of Sacramentans now rent. The Black community suffered especially devastating losses; African American homeownership in Sacramento has declined by half, standing at 27% today, compared to 43% before 2008.

Most renters in Sacramento can't afford these rising rents. As housing costs skyrocket, wages have not kept pace with inflation. Signs of unsustainable housing costs pop up everywhere. Eighty percent of Sacramento residents make less than the median income of \$32,000 per year; rent can easily claim 30% or more of their wages. (Statewide, 1.7 million renters pay *over half of their income* to landlords.) Here, 70,000 people are on the waiting list for subsidized Section 8 housing. The canaries in the mine – the homeless population – grew in Sacramento by 30% last year.

What Are the Major Causes of Rent Gouging?

As renters struggle to make the rent, the housing market has produced primarily luxury housing because that's where the profit lies. (Common Dreams, 8/6/18.) Of the 5,500 construction permits issued for construction of housing units in Sacramento between 2015-2017, only 98 were for moderately priced housing. (Sacramento Bee 7/19/18.)

At every level, federal, state, and local, governments dominated and funded by corporate interests have turned their backs

on the need to subsidize, finance, and build housing for low and moderate income renters. In Sacramento, the largest federal sources went from \$10.3 million in 2003 to 6.2 million this year; locally controlled money dropped from 19.6 million in 2006 to \$5.6 million in 2017. (Sacramento Business Journal 8/15/18.)

But declining subsidies are only part of the reason for rising rents. As automation replaces human labor, and industrial production as a share of the economy shrinks, wealthy investors are moving their money into financial speculation to increase their returns. The economist Joseph Steiglitz points out that lending stimulated by bank deregulation has “gone to increase the value of land and other fixed resources (building, real estate, etc.) which is causing the wealthy to become wealthier, while the workers, who have no wealth, don't benefit.”

As explained by *TomDispatch.com* in “The Empire Strikes Back” (2012), “From 2009-2012 the top 1% of Americans captured 95% of income gains. Now, as the housing market rebounds, billions of dollars in recovered housing wealth is flowing straight to Wall Street instead of to families and communities.”

According to Channel 3 KCRA (11/6/17), the investment firm Blackstone Group owns over 1500 single-family rental homes in Sacramento County, the largest owner in the rental market after the City itself. The homes are owned by a rapidly expanding subsidiary company called Invitation Homes, which owned nearly 50,000 homes in 13 cities across the U.S last year.

For these predatory corporate speculators, the pressure to reward investors has converted housing from a local, “mom and pop” operation into the ultimate Wall Street venture, and impacting whole neighborhoods as other landlords move quickly to match their higher rents. “Owning that much of the market when all the other owners have maybe one or two properties, I mean, it can make a substantial difference,” says Veronica Beaty, housing specialist at the Sacramento Housing Alliance. “We see Blackstone and companies like it charging rates above market -- and that leads other folks to follow suit.”

In the face of this perfect storm of housing insecurity, displacement, and homelessness, the Sacramento City Council, led by

Democratic Mayor Darrell Steinberg, has betrayed the residents of the city at every turn. These politicians depend on tens of thousands of dollars from real estate interests to fund their campaigns. Disguised by soothing phrases like “inclusive economic development” and meaningless hearings to allow the community to be “heard,” the most notable recent actions include the following:

- Mayor Steinberg, like City Councilman Steve Hanson, opposes the ballot measures that will control and stabilize rents, both locally, through a charter amendment (the Sacramento Fair Rent and Community Stabilization Charter Amendment), as well as through Proposition 10, although at the recent Democratic Party convention 90% of delegates supported the initiative. (Jonah Paul, DSA, 6/12/18.)
- Steinberg and other council members oppose the reinstatement of Sacramento's inclusionary housing ordinance, which, until it was repealed in 2015, required developers to set aside 15% of new rental construction (in certain areas) for low income renters. As described by Erika Smith in the Sacramento Bee,

“...the council swapped the inclusionary requirement for a ridiculously cheap fee that was supposed to fill a trust fund for such projects [at the urging of a business leaders touting a plan they said would boost the supply of affordable housing.] Even worse, the council stupidly agreed to a list of exemptions so broad that almost all of the high-density, infill housing projects under construction in the central city over the past three years have been exempt, leaving the fund near empty.” (7/19/18.)

- While the Council placed on the November ballot a 1 cent sales tax hike (Measure U) to boost the city budget (after going deeply in debt to build the Kings' downtown basketball arena) all the proceeds from the sales tax will go into the general fund. It is not earmarked for affordable housing. In fact, powerful developers want the funds be used to subsidize *market rate* infill housing, a policy which the Bee's Erika Smith describes as a “gentrification bomb.”

Don't be fooled. Remember Barbara, waiting for the Letter in the mailbox. Act to protect renters and vote for Proposition 10.

Ways to Help Homeless People

By Tony Hackett

There are few topics today that seem to be as controversial or enigmatic as homelessness, especially in cities like Sacramento. As rent prices sky-rocket and wages flat-line, an untold number continually struggle to make ends meet, and have demanded that local or state governments do *something* to alleviate the problem.

And yet, the problem only seems to have worsened. Despite victories for homeless advocates at the ballot box and in the courtroom the number of individuals lacking permanent shelter in Sacramento is rising. Even conservative estimates show that the number falls between five and seven thousand on any given night, though even this figure fails to account for the innumerable individuals who may not be “visibly homeless” but who lack access to permanent shelter.

And as many long-time Sacramento residents can attest, there is a particular sense of helplessness accompanying such a plethora of failed initiatives. Projects on both sides of the political aisle, from “Homeless Outreach Teams” of police officers and park rangers to institutionalization and “social detox support” have had limited, if any, success, and have contributed to the exigency with which many approach the issue of homelessness.

But if you are like many of the other dismayed Sacramentans with understandable skepticism of governmental programs intended to prevent and end homelessness, you may find solace in the concrete actions that you can take join the fight for clean, safe, and affordable housing for all.

Donate Your Time

One way to help is to volunteer your time with a shelter, food closet, or charitable organization. Behind every free, warm bed and noontime meal is an underappreciated staff of volunteers working hard to complete day-to-day tasks. Volunteers are always needed to cook and serve food, answer phones, clean, and distribute resources, and with a few hours of training, you could be helping vulnerable community members get access to vital goods and services.

Donate Resources

Another way is to help is donate resources to those in need through an organization. Not-for-profit organizations like Sacramento Loaves and Fishes and Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services often have specific needs lists for items depending on season and community need. However, they and many others are always looking for household items like utensils, books, computers, personal hygiene products (including tampons and pads).

In particular, you may consider donating children’s clothes, toys, and school supplies to make living as a homeless child just a little bit easier. You might also consider donating used-good condition second-hand clothes -- particularly work attire - - to organizations like Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE) that help people present their best selves within professional settings when they otherwise might not be able to afford it.

If you’re interested in giving directly to homeless individuals, consider carrying “care packages” with items like non-perishable food, bottled water, and flashlights. By offering

essential items to those in need, you are doing your part to ensure their well-being.

But don’t forget four-legged friends! Purchasing a bag of dog or cat food could go a long way for someone’s furry companion.

For a list of shelters and temporary aid organizations, visit the website www.homelessshelterdirectory.org

Get Involved

If you are interested in pursuing political action to put an end to homelessness, there are several bills that need your support. By voicing your support to family, friends, and local representatives, you can do your part to ensure that monumental strides are made at the governmental level to end homelessness.

Senate Bill 912 (Beall and Skinner) would redirect \$2 billion of state revenue as a one time investment to address temporary homelessness as well as the lack of safe and affordable housing.

Senate Bill 918, otherwise known as the Homeless Youth Act of 2018 (Wiener/Rubio), would establish and allocate \$60 million to the Office of Homeless Youth, whose goal would be to prevent and end homelessness for youths in the state.

Assembly Bill 2161 (Chiu) would facilitate the development of an integrated, statewide system of data collection in order to develop a more accurate assessment of the state’s homeless population and their needs.

Assembly Bill 2784 (Caballero) would establish an Emergency Student Housing Loan Program for students at three California State University campuses who are housing-insecure or may soon

experience homelessness.

You may also help a person experiencing homelessness by registering them to vote under the You Don’t Need a Home to Vote Project. online at www.nationalhomeless.org

You can also voice your support for the declaration of a shelter crisis in Sacramento giving the city access to vital state funds for the construction of both temporary and permanent shelter.

Finally, you can support the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness’s (SRCEH) call for a moratorium on Sacramento’s anti-camping ordinance, which criminalizes sleeping in public space and often results in unfair citations and even detention.

Get Educated

But perhaps the most important thing that you can do to contribute to the effort to end homelessness is to educate yourself. There are just as many reasons why a person becomes homeless as there are misconceptions about it; learning about structural factors that contributed to destitution, like housing costs, illness, job loss, divorce, and domestic violence, is one of the first steps toward understanding what homelessness is and how it is affecting our communities.

By showing respect and teaching others about the plethora of stereotypes imperiling homeless individuals, you can do your part to erase the stigma surrounding homelessness and poverty, and aid in the society-wide effort to combat economic and social hardship in the place we all call home.

Yes on Prop 1 and Prop 2 - Health Starts with a Stable, Affordable Home

Take it easy and get some rest at home. So often that's the basic prescription for recovering from an illness and regaining your health. But that's challenging for many Californians when "home" is a hotel room, car or shelter, or you aren't sure how many nights you will be able to afford to keep the roof you have over your head.

Ladd Phelps knows that pain and struggle all too well. After getting sick and needing several surgeries, the bills added up, he lost his job and his apartment. Living on and off the streets for more than six years, sometimes spending a few nights in a hotel room trying to recover from illnesses and medical procedures, Phelps said staying healthy without a stable, affordable home was impossible.

"I was in a bad place and it was really rough," Phelps said. "No one should ever have to go through a major surgery in between being homeless. But that was what I had to do."

We know the facts: health starts at home.

Prop 1, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Act and Prop 2, the No Place Like Home Act on our statewide November ballot will help more Californians like Phelps have access to stable, affordable homes and be able to lead healthier lives.

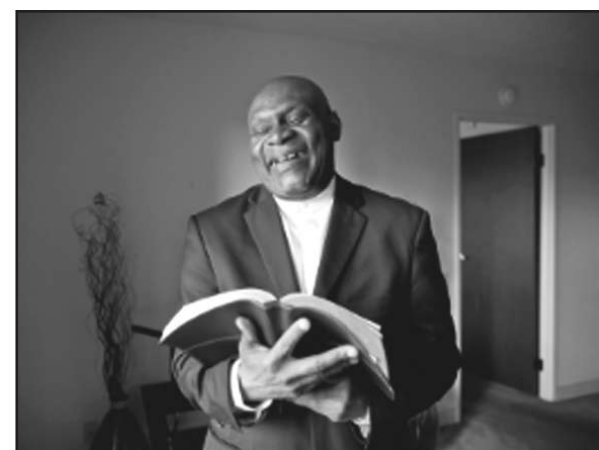
Prop 1 will build and provide affordable housing for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness, and many others who are hurting from California's affordable housing crisis.

Prop 2 helps Californians living with a serious mental illness who are homeless or at great risk of becoming homeless stay off the streets and get into supportive housing that is connected to mental health and addiction services, medical care, case managers, and more.

After several tough years, Phelps eventually found his way to the East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) that put stable, affordable housing in reach for him and helped get his health back on track. "To me

affordable housing is when even people with low incomes can live comfortably and be healthy," Phelps said. "Having affordable housing is necessary for me. And it also means a lot to me for other people to be able to have access to housing too."

Only housing will lower the high cost of homelessness, so help make affordable housing possible for more Californians by voting YES on Prop 1 and Prop 2.



Ladd Phelps Rejoices in His New Apartment

More Building, Less Affordable Housing. What's Wrong with this Picture?

By Suzanne Hastings

All across the country it seems there are more apartment houses being built than ever before, and yet homelessness is increasing. Our system appears to have become the whale that starved to death with a barrel of fish stuck in its mouth!

So why has housing become an unattainable goal to so many? Why are so many just a paycheck, or one rent increase away from the streets?

We have an ever growing aging population that lives on a fixed income. And housing costs are just not figured into the housing equation. In a recent SNR article (Aug 2/2018 by Matt Levin, pg 14) there is a story on how many refugees come here to escape a war torn country, only to face sky-high rents that they struggle to pay every month. Some who live in subsidized housing face being evicted so that the house or apartment can be put back on the market for higher rent. Many students live out of their cars or in shelters because they can't afford to live in apartments or dorms. Even those with 2 or more minimum wage jobs simply cannot find decent housing.

Why is it that affordable housing seems to have become the impossible dream in America? One of the reasons is the cost of building has become so expensive. Building materials, building permits, and labor to build the homes cost more than ever. So the costs are passed

onto the consumer. Even the "Tiny Houses" that seemed to be the answer have become disproportionately expensive for their small size. Putting us right back at square one.

BIDS (Business Improvement Districts) have played a major role in the gentrification of cities. Even though "Fair Housing" was enacted a few decades ago, we still have subtle forms of "Red-Lining" which keep minority groups in areas with predatory loans, poor schooling and few job opportunities. People are being priced out of better neighborhoods, and forced to live in sub-standard neighborhoods.

Many cities fight the idea of tent communities and shelters because they believe it deters people from looking for permanent housing. But what if there is no affordable, stable, permanent housing? It seems that those in charge seem to see the stereotype of a "homeless person" as someone who is on drugs or drunk: Who chooses to be unwashed: Who is lazy and is simply looking for a hand-out. They need to know that many of the homeless do work, go to school and have ambitions. They simply don't have a roof over their heads because of government policy.

New housing continues to be built, while those who simply do not have the means of making 3 times the \$1400 a month rents can only watch as their American Dream dies.



I long, as does every human being, to be at home wherever I find myself. - **Maya Angelou**

[4,200 month = 50,400 year = 970 week]

People Get Ready

By Cathleen Williams

*"People get ready
a trains a-coming
picking up passengers
one by one."*

February little spring
the plums bloom, the almonds
suddenly burst from freeway side
ditches demanding to be known

Clearer to me now
the process
the
power in it
our
power unfolds
in that history scroll
where all is told

like Rome

the landless peasants
starved by slaves who took the work
those ancient Latins massed
passing and trespassing
through the stone gates
demanding bread and land

on that scroll their cries written
though the Tiber ran red

each revolution
working
through the channels of thought
and memory
flowing, widening in flood
each revolt making the next

I Rode the Bus All the Way

By Cathleen Williams

I rode the bus all the way
down Wilshire Boulevard in LA
like a tiny dwarf blown
along with all the other old people
and working people, brown and black people
and a few new young people
with their phones.
when we reached
some impassable intersection
La Brea? Santa Monica?
all was gone all sense of season
all sense of earthen scale –

inflated cubes, glowing
above the glitter of traffic
all burning, consuming and consumed
as if by unending fire...
this is the future they want
this is what they have in mind
we can look, we can admire
like exhausted children
stumbling along

A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:

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**Women's Empowerment
Uptown Studios Inc.
Safe Ground Sacramento**

***Los Rios College
Federation of Teachers***

Community Dinner Project Needs Your Help

Help feed the unhoused Tuesdays 4:30Pm before Sacramento City Council Meetings.

For 4 ½ years kind volunteers
have cooked and served healthy meals.

We do this through good people,
donated vegetables, paper plates and
cups. Please consider helping us with
your time – all it takes is an hour.

We also need more food, plates and
cups. We need more cooks, pick-up
drivers, and servers.

***Please help us help others.
Thank you!***

Contact info:

***[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
communtydinnerproject](https://www.facebook.com/groups/communtydinnerproject)
sacramentoartrev@gmail.com***



I want to help HOMEWARD continue in Sacramento.

Enclosed find my donation of \$20 for a one year subscription.

Please mail my copies to:

Name: _____

Street & Apt: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to the *Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC)* and mail to: PO Box 952 Sacramento, CA 95812**22.5**
Office Use Only

Received

clip & mail coupon

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. 916-442-0331

St. John's Shelter: Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 916-453-1482

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: 916-447-3268

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 916-455-2160

Volunteers of America Family Shelter: Adults w/children only. Apply Tues.-Thurs. 1-3 pm 1490 Blding B, N. "A" St. 916-443-4688

Day Shelters

Friendship Park: Between 12th St. & Ahern on 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. 916-447-3268

Loaves & Fishes: 1321 N. '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 916-452-2866

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. 916-452-7078

Safe Haven Calvary Christian Center: 1300 North C St. 8 am Sun, Coffee, Women's clothing, Service 9am: Wed. 6 pm bible study.

Women & Children

Maryhouse: 1321 N. '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. 916-454-9688

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

Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 916-456-1980

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am sign up, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 916-447-3268

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 916-452-7078

Medical

Mercy Clinic: For homeless adults, children: 1300 block of N. 'C' Street next to fire station. 916-446-3345

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 916-874-8300

Mental Health

Guest House, 600 Bercut Drive.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 916-440-1500

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). 916-699-1536

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: 916-920-2952

AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 916-329-1093 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. 916-443-3299

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. 916-447-2437

Harm Reduction Services: 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 916-456-4849

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous HIV testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 916-874-7720.

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. 916-446-0368

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. 916-551-2150

Welfare Rights: 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 916-736-0616

Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation (916) 658-1880

Veterans

VA Outreach: 1-800-827-1000

Homeless VA Coordinator: (916) 364-6547

**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>

909 12th Street, Suite 114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

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

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center
7270 East Southgate Dr. 916-393-8387

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 advocate; 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. 916-456-1980.

Social Services: 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 916-874-2072

Employment Development Department (EDD): 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 916-227-0300

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 916-381-9410: 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

Narcotics Anonymous Hotline
1-877-NA-6363

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, a 501c3.

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 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 of 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 major 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.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.

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The paper may be reached at:
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The paper may also be e-mailed at
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On the web at:
<https://sacshoc.org/homeward>

'Angelversary' of Rushing Shooting Observed

Family of Palermo woman killed by deputies gains 'voice'

by Dave Waddell

A couple dozen citizens gathered Monday evening for an "angelversary" to remember the life and death of Tyler Rushing, one year to the day after he was killed in a downtown shooting involving Chico police.



Tyler Rushing - photo courtesy Rushing family

"It's a very hard day for us," said Scott Rushing of Ventura, Tyler's father. Rushing said he expects to experience "a lifetime of trauma" over the killing of his only son on July 23, 2017. The shooting involved a private security guard and a Chico police sergeant.

In addition to Rushing and his wife Paula, in attendance at the commemoration were members and supporters of two other families who have had loved ones killed in officer-involved shootings in

Butte County in the past 1½ years.

"I fight for them all because they all matter," said Kat Lee, a member of the Justice for Desmond Phillips group. Phillips, a young black man in mental crisis, was shot 11 times on March 17, 2017, in his own living room by Chico police.

Much of the wrath of those who spoke was directed at District Attorney Mike Ramsey for what his critics describe as a law enforcement culture in the county in which deadly force is too readily employed without legal consequences for the involved officers.

"We're going to bring Ramsey down together," said Erica Traverso, also a Justice for Desmond Phillips activist.

Ramsey, the county's top prosecutor for more than 30 years, was re-elected in June to a four-year term while running unopposed. Although Ramsey cleared the Chico policemen involved in the Phillips and Rushing deaths of any criminal wrongdoing, state Attorney General Xavier Becerra's office is formally reviewing both shootings.

The Justice for Desmond Phillips group recently posted on Twitter its expectation that it would soon meet with officials from the state Attorney General's office.



Ramsey said today the criticisms of him offer up a "false narrative."

"There is no culture of using deadly force too readily," he said. "When officers or the public are attacked and officers respond with deadly force, a full, fair and complete investigation is completed in each case."

Monday's invitation-only gathering hosted by the Rushings at Roots Catering on the Esplanade became something of a forceful coming out for the family of Myra Micalizio, a 56-year-old Palermo woman shot dead by two Butte County sheriff's deputies on April 26. Ramsey has not yet issued a report on the Micalizio shooting. News outlets have reported that both deputies who fired their pistols, Charles Lair and Mary Baker,

failed to activate their body-worn cameras.

Greg Abrew of Oroville, Micalizio's brother-in-law, told Monday's gathering of his reaction when he heard how she died.

"I said, 'No way. She would never do anything against the police,'" Abrew said. "She was a loving person. It's been rough on all of us."

One of Micalizio's eight siblings, Tommy Widener of Oroville, also condemned the circumstances of his sister's death.

"Nobody should have to die like that," he said. "Butte County's going to hell."

Another Micalizio sibling, Brenda Widener-Abrew, said she's come to learn that "Butte County is littered with civilians" killed by law enforcement, and she thanked the group for their support.

"I haven't had a voice since April because I didn't know what to say or who to say it to," she said. "I got a voice now with you guys backing it up."

Emily Alma of Chico encouraged those in attendance to become involved with Concerned Citizens for Justice, which is working to create a citizen review board of police conduct in Chico.

"In my sadness and shock at Desmond's murder ... one goal is to transform the violent culture of law enforcement in Butte County," Alma said.



Scott Rushing talks with Chico City Council candidate Scott Huber at Monday's remembrance. Photo by Dave Waddell

Scott Huber, who's running for Chico City Council in November, said he came to the remembrance at the Rushings' invite after having expressed support as a candidate for greater police oversight.

Dave Waddell is news director at ChicoSol. Reprinted with permission.

Jobless

I decided to work hard.
Grinding every day, regardless of where I start.
No job yet, but I'm bound to get me a car.
I love so passionately of what I can do, I'm a star.
Or I'm just a human trying to find money.
Or I'm like an alien who needs gold like honey.
Either way, me being broke & jobless, not so funny.
Money can't buy happiness
Can I buy what makes me happy?

-3ly

The CHICO VIBE

Made possible by our supporters...

Chico Housing Action Team
Bob Woods, Ed Mayer, Lucy Gould
& Friends of Tyler Rushing



"I've been thinking about having enough money to last all month, enough to be comfortable. I'm focusing on things I can do, instead of can't. I'm not stopping myself from living and being free." — Devin

Without a Roof saw Devin in Chico Downtown Plaza talking with someone from Butte County Behavioural Health. Devin said they were checking on him most days. It was splendid to see and I told the BH employee just that. Appropriately enough a red-haired man in his thirties approached the BH employee and pleaded for assistance with housing, "I don't want to be out here homeless, I want a place to live."

Butte County has a woeful lack of Behavioural Health beds and permanent housing that has somehow become acceptable. We must cease being OK providing follow-up care to community members with serious mental illness while allowing them to linger and die on the streets.

Devin says, "I love Safe Space, a great way to spend church money." When I explained Chico Housing Action Team's Simplicity Village proposal for homeless seniors Devin replied, "Oh yeah, I would stay there." He laughs.

Writing for Donuts

Life After Prison

I wish it was not so hard to get a job and house. So many people judge you for going to prison. This life is not easy - it's a hard life to live. I feel like sometimes I want to give up, then I but then I reason that I need to show people I can do it. I got a girl that truly loves me, but it's still hard, because prison makes you feel like you're not human. Nobody wants to give me a chance. - Dillion

Four Walls

Four walls, all white, no sleep for the past four nights. Mind racing, your body's getting very jumpy and impatient. It seems like life is just passing by while you're just stuck in time, losing your mind.

Lately you've been sad and lonely, been missing life and your family. You haven't heard or seen them in a long time. Maybe it's just this time - 24 hours in a day, 7 days a week...

Life goes on while you're just stuck in your head, losing your mind. - Jose

Create

I wish life could go slower, so people could learn and do the things they need to do in life. Balance must be a part of life - without it, we are nothing. Life will destroy itself. People need to learn to work as a whole, not as separate units. Life and everything is beautiful. Why destroy when we can create? - Gary