

Integrities

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CREATING A DIFFERENT FUTURE

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IF: People Seeking Possibilities

2018 Event

RSVP appreciated

831-724-4108 or 831-724-5526

May 19

IF's LATIN AMERICAN DINNER*

Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Lake Freedom • 60 Sunflower Lane

hosted by Bill and Karen Cane

Delicious Latin American cuisine. Short video on indigenous women's struggles produced by the Peace and Nonviolence Collective.

Proceeds benefit the visionary nonviolent social change work of Mexico of Pietro Ameglio and his co-workers, including the youth-led Peace and Nonviolence Collective.

***Suggested sliding scale donation: \$40-\$60 per person**

IN MEMORIAM

Gerry Cox, who did wonderful things in his life and in the community, and who was a friend of IF for many years; you will be missed.

Cover photographs by Karen Cane

CREATING A DIFFERENT FUTURE

The events of these recent months keep weighing our spirits down.

The new tax laws give money to the super-rich, money to big corporations, money to the military and money for new nuclear bombs (The US already has 6,800 nuclear bombs).

Healthcare for all, and especially for the poor, is being diminished.

The president, and many powerful politicians, claim that there is no global warming.

Racial prejudice, anti-immigrant energy, withdrawal from world cooperation, threats of nuclear war—all take their toll on us.

The more we let all this information in, the more depressing the future looks.

BUT THEN....

But then, all of a sudden, from another place entirely, a massive protest breaks out. High school students and young people throughout the country are



illustration by Karen Cane

suddenly protesting guns in the wake of the slaughter at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. An AR-15 semi-automatic rifle was used in the shooting. The students want guns like these taken off the market.

THE META PEACE TEAM TELLS US WHY:

“The first thing everyone needs to understand about assault weapons is that they are NOT guns, as most people think of guns. They are something more like missile launchers, with projectiles that essentially explode in a victim's body, leaving nothing behind of vital organs but unrecognizable shreds, exit wounds as big as an orange. If one of your vital organs is hit, there is absolutely nothing that can be done to save you. . .

Assault weapons have absolutely no application in hunting, unless you are into pulled deer meat, or shredded trophies. Their only purpose is to murder many people as fast as possible. They are a self evident and existential threat to public health, and MUST be taken off our streets.

Just put an armed police officer in every school says the NRA, or arm a bunch of teachers with "concealed" hand guns. . .

Even teachers who are former marines are saying gun-toting teachers is a lunatic idea. . .

Because guess what, the school in Parkland, Florida HAD a real trained police deputy on duty, and he hid behind his car when he heard the assault weapons fire. A real trained police officer was not

interested in confronting someone with an assault weapon. He knew that sound. He knew what was going on. And he was not interested in committing suicide.

Trump wants to offer teachers a "bonus" for basically committing suicide, because that's what it comes down to as long as assault weapons are out there in civilian hands. Of course, three teachers in Parkland committed suicide anyway, taking assault weapon projectiles for their own students, to try to save them.

It's not just a question of automatic vs. semi-automatic. Yes, fully automatic assault weapons are even worse, but semi-automatic assault weapons are just as horrific in terms of the carnage of the wounds they cause. . .

Some argue it's hard to define what to ban and what not to ban. Not so. Muzzle velocity alone can determine what is and what is not appropriate in civilian hands. This ought to be easy. . .

So no, we are not trying to take away everyone's guns, as the NRA would have people believe, though even regular guns need to be regulated like the still lethal weapons they are. But get the assault weapons off the street? Absolutely. . .

The right not to be mass murdered is inalienable. The right to play with assault weapons like they're sex toys is not. . .

A host of elected officials are adamantly opposed to gun control. So they are scrambling to try to appear as if they are doing something. They say they want to arm teachers rather than to stop

making these horrible rifles so easy to buy. They quote the Second Amendment. They talk about mental health.

The National Rifle Association gives millions of dollars to politicians who refuse to back gun control.”

(The Meta Peace Team partners with many other peace and justice groups around the world, aiming to build a more peaceful planet through networking and collaboration.)

“THIS WEEK I’M MORE HOPEFUL THAN ANGRY. WATCHING TEENAGERS TAKE APART POLITICIANS WITH EASE, SEEING HOW THEY’RE TURNING THEIR GRIEF INTO ACTION—IT’S THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE THAT I’VE THOUGHT MAYBE THINGS WILL START TO GET BETTER.”

Jessica Valenti

THE NRA WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS

In 1871, the NRA was founded by William Church, a lawyer, and George Wingate, a former newspaper reporter. Wingate explained his new organization’s purpose as working to “promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis.” To that end, the NRA operated mostly as a sporting club and hunting association for its first 100 years. It put a heavy emphasis on gun safety education

and training, especially for young people. Church and Wingate had been inspired to create their organization in part from their experience as soldiers during the Civil War, where they had been appalled by the poor marksmanship skills of their fellow fighters. Guns were dangerous, especially in untrained hands, the two men understood. The NRA organized safety clinics and target-shooting competitions to teach young men (and later women) proper gun use and the obligations of responsible firearm ownership.

Guns were also dangerous in the wrong hands, so the NRA often supported gun control laws in the first half of the 20th Century. It backed the National Firearms Act of 1934 and, four years later, the Federal Firearms Act, plus a host of measures at the state level. These various laws, among other things, required licenses for gun dealers, levied heavy taxes on machine guns, instituted waiting periods for buying handguns and mandated permits for concealed weapons.

All of this work—education, safety training and gun control advocacy—represented the NRA’s sense of the limits of gun ownership and the organization’s obligation to protect Americans from gun violence in all its forms. Occasionally, the NRA also opposed gun control laws it saw as unnecessary or excessive, but it rarely invoked “gun rights” as the basis for doing so. As one scholar has noted, any mention in the NRA’s publications and pronouncements of the Second Amendment “was glaringly absent before the early 1960s.”

All of that changed during the cultural upheaval of the late 1960s and 1970s. Citing rising crime rates and social unrest as their rationale, a band of gun rights hardliners wrested control of the NRA from the old guard safety and sporting advocates. . .

The Second Amendment, the NRA now argued, gave individuals an absolute right to gun ownership, one that the federal government couldn't limit in any way. It was a radical reinterpretation of what had been the common perception of the amendment for nearly two centuries.

With its talk of rights, freedom and self-defense, the NRA has presented itself as the tireless defender of embattled gun owners for nearly half a century. The truth, however, is that such language has given cover for the modern NRA's real work as the craven lobbyist of gun manufacturers.

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

Women who have been attacked are beginning to make history. When Anita Hill told her story, protesting the elevation of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court in 1991, she was ignored. Now, she would not be ignored. The tide has turned.

The original purpose of #MeToo by creator Tarana Burke was to empower women through empathy, especially young and vulnerable women. In October 2017, Alyssa Milano encouraged using the phrase to help reveal the extent of problems with sexual harassment and assault by showing how many people have

experienced these events themselves. Sexual violence has been estimated by the World Health Organization to affect one-third of all women worldwide. A 2017 poll by ABC News and The Washington Post found that 54% of American women report receiving "unwanted and inappropriate" sexual advances.

Recently, many politicians, celebrities and corporate magnates have been brought down because they have attacked and abused women. And many, many more women are now running for office.

SOME PERSONAL HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF #MeToo



Jaclyn Friedman is an American feminist writer and activist from Boston, MA

"We've got to stop treating each case that comes to light like a self-contained soap opera that ends when the villain is defeated, and start addressing the systems that have enabled workplace sexual abuse for so long."

Jaclyn Friedman



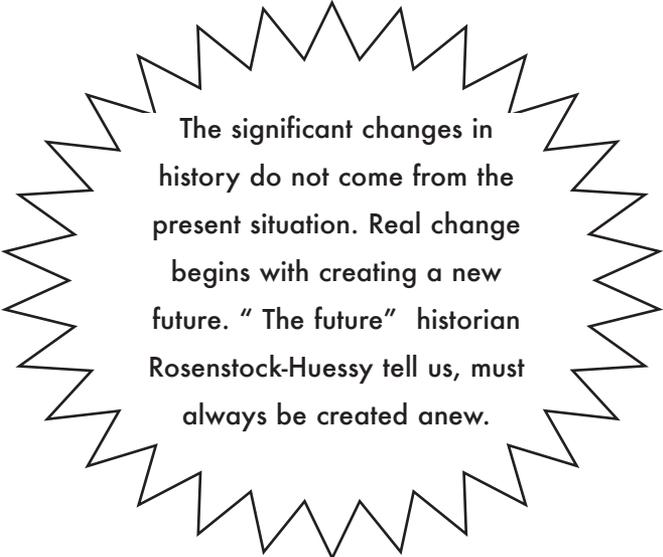
Kathryn Minshew is the CEO and co-founder of The Muse, a career-development platform.

"It's now time to use our collective strength and outrage to turn awareness into substantive action."

Kathryn Minshew

"For 2018, I hope that the courage of the women in #MeToo will inspire more men to support those women and challenge all that's wrong in our culture. I have great admiration for any man who intervenes when a woman or girl is in a perilous situation or might be. We surely need more men ready to do that. But I also view the 'bystander' concept as too limited when it comes to any form of injustice. We need men not just to be reactive in the best ways but to be proactive as well: to speak out strongly against other men's sexism."

Bob Lamm



The significant changes in history do not come from the present situation. Real change begins with creating a new future. "The future" historian Rosenstock-Huessy tell us, must always be created anew.

GET WEAPONS OF WAR OFF OUR STREETS

Bill Garvey sent us the following proposals to help get guns that are weapons of war off the streets.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 1

It is obvious that Washington has become corrupt. With a sea of lobbyists whose sole purpose is to influence legislation, huge amounts of money are being hurled at legislators.

Our legislators in Washington are allowing the country to be run by corporations and those with very deep pockets. The wealthy few are influencing legislation and we are losing our democracy, if indeed we have not lost it already.

It is a societal craziness that our children are no longer safe at school, of all places. Weapons of war are on the streets and are easy to buy. Yet nothing is done about it because nowhere is this corruption more devastating than in the case of guns.

Most Republicans will not vote to change gun laws. They won't change these laws because they are indebted to the NRA and the gun lobby which have given them loads of money over the years. This is corruption at its worst. Are we going to sacrifice our children to keep the NRA happy?

A minority but a strong faction in this country thinks like the NRA. They want to keep their guns. Certainly hunting rifles are fine, but AR-15s are something else altogether. They are weapons of war.

So what can we do now besides voting NRA leaning legislators out of office, which will take time? Let's get the destructive NRA money out of politics now.

I propose that we push resolutions demanding that our Senators and our Representatives stop accepting money from the gun lobby and the NRA. With members of Congress being asked to sign this resolution, a number of things would happen. Those who refuse to sign will reveal where their loyalty lies and will be more easily voted out of office, or perhaps, be more willing to support gun control in the future. If enough of our elected officials sign such a resolution, eventually we will have sensible gun laws. Our job is to contact our elected officials about this proposal and push them to sign it. There will not be meaningful gun legislation until the NRA's money is out of the picture.

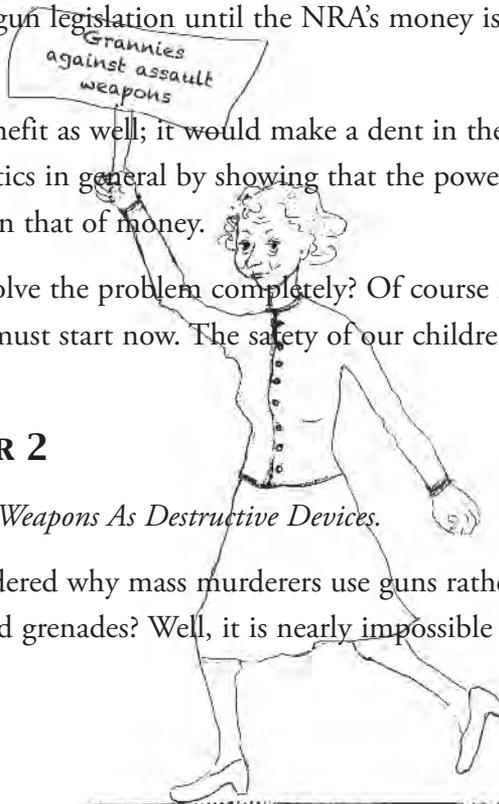
There is another benefit as well; it would make a dent in the power of money in politics in general by showing that the power of the people is greater than that of money.

Will this proposal solve the problem completely? Of course not but it is a start and we must start now. The safety of our children demands it.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 2

Reclassify Automatic Weapons As Destructive Devices.

Have you ever wondered why mass murderers use guns rather than explosives, say hand grenades? Well, it is nearly impossible to



Grannies
against assault
weapons

buy a hand grenade because it is a destructive device regulated under the 1934 National Firearms Act. Automatic guns should be classified in the same way. They are not merely guns but are weapons of war and as such are destructive devices, which are made for one purpose: to kill enemies. It is a killing machine like a grenade. Let the NRA howl. It's time to get rid of its influence and these guns.

***WAGING PEACE**, a review by David Krieger of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation*

I recently read this impressive autobiography, *WAGING PEACE*, by nonviolent activist David Hartsough, which I recommend highly. David was born in 1940 and has been a lifelong participant and leader in actions seeking a more decent world through nonviolent means. His guiding stars have been peace, justice, nonviolence and human dignity. He has been a foe of all U.S. wars during his lifetime, and a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War. He has lived his nonviolence and made it an adventure in seeking truth, as Gandhi did. I will not try to recount the many adventures that he writes about, but they include civil rights sit-ins, blockading weapons bound for Vietnam, accompanying at-risk individuals in the wars in Central America and creating, with a colleague, a Nonviolent Peaceforce. David has lived his life with compassion, commitment and courage. He is principled, but also pragmatic. He finds, "It is much easier to make friends than to fight enemies." He asks us to use our imaginations: "Imagine how the world would change if we recruited millions of

people for the Peace Corps, nonviolent peace teams, and other constructive efforts, rather than for our military forces. Think of how much safer we all would be if the world knew Americans as healers and teachers, builders of clinics and schools, and supporters of land reform, rather than as deadly dominators.” Imagine what a different world that would be. In addition to telling his life story, David has a chapter on “Transforming Our Society from One Addicted to Violence and War to One Based on Justice and Peace with the World.” He also included sections on: Proposal for Ending All War; Resources for Further Study and Action; Ten Lessons Learned from My Life of Activism; and much more.

David Hartsough’s life is inspiring, and the lessons he draws from his experiences are valuable in paving the way to a world without war. I encourage you to read his book on his lifelong efforts at Waging Peace.

IF HELPS SUPPORT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY IMMIGRATION PROJECT

by Judy Barry

In these anti-immigrant days, the Santa Cruz County Immigration Project (SCCIP) has expanded considerably. SCCIP, which is a project of the Community Action Board, offers legal services, advocacy, education and a 24-hour hotline for reports of ICE activity (831-724-5667).

Santa Cruz Immigration offers people regular assistance with applications for citizenship as well as help for people to avoid random deportations. It assists DACA young people and refugees from El Salvador who have legal temporary Sanctuary here.

Christmas Season 2016 (at Palo Alto Medical Clinic)

by Betty Michelozzi

You walk by reminding me of Mama.

We meet over paper towels,

“Where do you come from?”

You nod and look confused,

“¿De donde viene?”

“Mexico,” as you shrink back in fear,

“Feliz Navidad,” I smile.

“Feliz Navidad,” you answer

All smiles. Relieved,

We are friends,

No need to fear.

Over a six-month period, over 3,000 clients have been seen and assisted, well over 150 persons per day!

The project has a “Childcare Safety Plan” in the event that parents are abruptly deported, and need to leave their children in the US. Volunteers assist families to complete documents specifying their wishes for effective guardianship of their children.

There are ample opportunities for volunteers: interviewing clients, participating in legal proceedings, accompanying applicants for citizenship to their interviews, and providing support and

resources for families living in the face of daily uncertainty. Spanish language is an asset, but not a necessity. Email Kateh@cabinc.org for an opportunity to volunteer.

IF CONTINUES TO:

1. Help provide stipends for young people who teach environmental care to grammar school students at Watsonville Wetlands Watch.
2. Contribute food and clothing for local farmworker families that are in need.
3. Provide funding to help support Mesa Verde's community garden program where farmworker families grow organic fruits and vegetables for their own tables.
4. Provide significant funding every year to support the courageous and innovative nonviolence education and organizing work of Pietro Ameglio in Mexico.
5. Help fund the Santa Cruz County Immigration Project which provides help and protection for at-risk immigrants.

IF has no executive salaries. Board members are all volunteers. IF's office space is donated.

These efficiencies enable IF to direct more of your donations to the people who need them.

You can read about IF, and read recent copies of *Integrities* online by going to www.Integrities.org.

MISSION TO EL SALVADOR

Monika Hassler, a Physician Assistant and IF Board member, recently traveled to El Salvador with 58 other medical volunteers. The sponsoring group, called *The Castaneda Kids Foundation*, was founded by a family in El Salvador to help the desperately poor there.

“We stayed together in a hotel,” writes Monika, “and were bused daily to poor, remote villages. Because of widespread crime and violence, we were kept under surveillance by armed guards. We brought along our own medical supplies, including an ultrasound machine, a well-stocked pharmacy and a small laboratory for basic testing.

“Between doctors, nurses, physician assistants and paramedics, we provided a wide array of services to over 2500 patients in five days! We were warmly welcomed by so many people who traveled by bus, truck and on foot to see us. Most of the problems were respiratory ailments, malnutrition and parasitic diseases. A few patients had to be taken directly to hospitals: one was a fourteen year-old girl who was brought in unconscious by family members. On the last day local children rewarded us with a dance performance and many thank-you cards.

“Over the seven days, many friendships developed, and the teamwork and camaraderie were truly heartwarming. Most of the team members want to go back next year.

“It can be said that these short-term missions are a mere drop in the bucket and that more long-term solutions are badly needed. This may be true, but this short-term visit opened our eyes to many of the prevailing problems and is even now inspiring us to think of more ways to make a difference.”

To find out more, go to [TCK foundation.org](http://TCKfoundation.org)



Photos courtesy o Monika Hassler

Membership Form

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