

# Integrities

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**A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM**

*Volume 32 No. 2 2019*

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**May 18**      **Latin America Dinner\***  
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**\* suggested sliding scale donation: \$40-\$75 per person**

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



*Cover Photo of Greta Thunberg  
 courtesy of the Internet*

## A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Greta Thunberg\* was born in Sweden in 2003, and realized the enormity of climate change when she was eight years old. She has addressed the United Nations Climate Conference and the World Economic Forum in Davos.

At age 16, to billionaire entrepreneurs in Davos she said: “I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act.”

### GRETA’S SPEECH FOR TEDxSTOCKHOLM (NOVEMBER, 2018)

“When I was about eight years old, I first heard about something called climate change or global warming. Apparently, that was something humans have created by their way of living. I was told to turn off the lights to save energy and to recycle paper to save resources. I remember thinking that it was very strange that humans, who are an animal species among others, could be capable of changing the Earth's climate. Because if we were, and if it was really happening, we wouldn't be talking about anything else. As soon as you'd turn on the TV, everything would be about that. Headlines, radio, newspapers, you would never read or hear about anything else, as if there was a world war going on. But no one ever talked about it. If burning fossil fuels was so bad that it threatened our very existence, how could we just continue like before? Why were there no restrictions? Why wasn't it made illegal? To me, that did not add up. It was too unreal.

*\*On March 13, 2019, three members of the Norwegian parliament nominated Thunberg as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize later this year.*

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“So when I was 11, I became ill. I fell into depression, I stopped talking, and I stopped eating. In two months, I lost about 10 kilos of weight. Later on, I was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, OCD and selective mutism. That basically means I only speak when I think it's necessary—now is one of those moments.

“For those of us who are on the spectrum, almost everything is black or white. We aren't very good at lying, and we usually don't enjoy participating in this social game that the rest of you seem so fond of. (*Laughter*)

“I think in many ways that we autistics are the normal ones, and the rest of the people are pretty strange, (*Laughter*) especially when it comes to the sustainability crisis, where everyone keeps saying climate change is an existential threat and the most important issue of all, and yet they just carry on like before. I don't understand that, because if the emissions have to stop, then we must stop the emissions. To me that is black or white. There are no gray areas when it comes to survival. Either we go on as a civilization or we don't.

“We have to change. Rich countries like Sweden need to start reducing emissions by at least 15 percent every year. And that is so that we can stay below a two-degree warming target. Yet, as the IPCC have recently demonstrated, aiming instead for 1.5 degrees Celsius would significantly reduce the climate impacts. But we can only imagine what that means for reducing emissions. You would think the media and every one of our leaders would be talking

about nothing else, but they never even mention it. Nor does anyone ever mention the greenhouse gases already locked in the system. Nor that air pollution is hiding a warming so that when we stop burning fossil fuels, we already have an extra level of warming perhaps as high as 0.5 to 1.1 degrees Celsius.

“Furthermore, hardly anyone speaks about the fact that we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, with up to 200 species going extinct every single day, and that the extinction rate today is between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than what is seen as normal. Nor does hardly anyone ever speak about the aspect of equity or climate justice, clearly stated everywhere in the Paris Agreement, which is absolutely necessary to make it work on a global scale. That means that rich countries need to get down to zero emissions within 6 to 12 years, with today's emission speed. And that is so that people in poorer countries can have a chance to heighten their standard of living by building some of the infrastructure that we have already built, such as roads, schools, hospitals, clean drinking water, electricity, and so on.

“Because how can we expect countries like India or Nigeria to care about the climate crisis if we who already have everything don't care even a second about it or our actual commitments to the Paris Agreement? So, why are we not reducing our emissions? Why are they in fact still increasing? Are we knowingly causing a mass extinction? Are we evil? No, of course not. People keep doing what they do because the vast majority doesn't have a clue about the actual consequences of our everyday life, and they don't know that

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rapid change is required. We all think we know, and we all think everybody knows, but we don't. Because how could we? If there really was a crisis, and if this crisis was caused by our emissions, you would at least see some signs. Not just flooded cities, tens of thousands of dead people, and whole nations leveled to piles of torn down buildings. You would see some restrictions. But no. And no one talks about it. There are no emergency meetings, no headlines, no breaking news. No one is acting as if we were in a crisis. Even most climate scientists or green politicians keep on flying around the world, eating meat and dairy.

“If I live to be 100, I will be alive in the year 2103. When you think about the future today, you don't think beyond the year 2050. By then, I will, in the best case, not even have lived half of my life. What happens next? The year 2078, I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children or grandchildren, maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you, the people who were around, back in 2018. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything while there still was time to act.

“What we do or don't do right now will affect my entire life and the lives of my children and grandchildren. What we do or don't do right now, me and my generation can't undo in the future. So when school started in August of this year, I decided that this was enough. I set myself down on the ground outside the Swedish parliament. I went on a school strike for the climate. Some people say that I should be in school instead. Some people say that I should study to become a climate scientist so that I can "solve the

climate crisis." But the climate crisis has already been solved. We already have all the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change. And why should I be studying for a future that soon will be no more when no one is doing anything whatsoever to save that future? And what is the point of learning facts in the school system when the most important facts given by the finest science of that same school system clearly mean nothing to our politicians and our society? Some people say that Sweden is just a small country, and that it doesn't matter what we do, but I think that if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not coming to school for a few weeks, imagine what we could all do together if you wanted to. (*Applause*)

"Now we're almost at the end of my talk, and this is where people usually start talking about hope, solar panels, wind power, circular economy, and so on, but I'm not going to do that. We've had 30 years of pep-talking and selling positive ideas. And I'm sorry, but it doesn't work. Because if it would have, the emissions would have gone down by now. They haven't. And yes, we do need hope, of course we do. But the one thing we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come. Today, we use 100 million barrels of oil every single day. There are no politics to change that. There are no rules to keep that oil in the ground. So we can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change, and it has to start today. Thank you."\*\*

\*\* To listen to this inspiring talk by this young woman, go to [tedxstockholm.com](http://tedxstockholm.com) and click on *TEDxStockholm:Wonderland-November 24, 2018*.

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## SANTA CRUZ STUDENTS RESPOND TO GRETA'S CALL TO ACTION

Students rallied around the Tower Clock in downtown Santa Cruz on Friday, March 15. Benjamin Brakinsky, 12, helped organize the strike after being inspired by 15-year old Greta Thunberg's protest at the Swedish Parliament.



*Photos courtesy of Lynda Marin from Santa Cruz Youth Climate Strike*

## ANOTHER 11-YEAR OLD SPEAKS OUT

*Sharon Duggan, who is a member of the Board of Our Children's Trust, sent us the following testimony of Levi D. from Florida, who, at eleven years old, testified in a lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of 21 YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.*

"I am an 11-year old citizen of the United States and resident of Satellite Beach, Florida. Our home is right about at sea level and is located about one mile from the Atlantic Ocean and only half a mile from the Indian River Lagoon . . .

"I am anxious, sad, and angry about the current and future effects of climate change on my home and my community. I feel



unsafe and fear that I will lose my barrier-island home and the beaches I have grown up on and love to visit because of rising sea level if my federal government does not begin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions right now, by a lot, and slow the effects of climate change . . .

“I am very upset that even though my federal government knows about all of the impacts of climate change, they keep doing things that cause greenhouse gas emissions, like using fossil fuels. They know that the burning of coal for energy is causing the seas to rise, but they keep doing everything they can to make sure coal continues to be used as an energy source. This doesn’t make any sense to me since there are so many other forms of clean energy that can be used instead. In my life I do everything I can to try and protect my home, like beach clean ups and eating a vegan diet, but it makes me angry to see that my federal government is actively doing things that harm me . . .

“I was only 8 years old when I filed this case and I am so frustrated that we haven’t had our trial yet. I am impatient because I’m a kid, and I have spent almost a quarter of my life working on this case, something that should have been done before I was even born because my government has known about climate change for so long. We were so close to trial in October 2018 and then it was canceled right before it was supposed to start. I don’t think it’s fair that we have to wait so long when every year the climate change impacts I am experiencing are getting worse . . .

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“During the Red Tide outbreak along the Florida coastline in 2018, I felt physically sick because the contaminated air made me cough and I wasn’t able to go to many of the beaches I always visit, like Paradise Beach, Pelican Beach, and Cocoa Beach. When I tried to go to the beach during the Red Tide outbreak, it was really scary and upsetting to see a bunch of dead fish and other dead animals on the beaches. The air was so bad I started coughing; it was difficult to breath and my eyes were burning. I ended up having to wear a gas mask just to go to the beach. Because of the Red Tide I couldn’t go on pre-planned field trips to the beach with Explorer’s Club, which is my home school group, and even had trouble being outside of my home for more than five minutes at a time. It was a really scary experience for me . . .

“I love to experience nature and wilderness in healthy, natural conditions. I’m scared about how climate change impacts and ocean acidification will continue to harm the beaches and springs in Florida and the wildlife that inhabit them. I can already notice the beaches around me getting smaller because of sea level rise. The reason why I care so much is I basically grew up on the beach . . .

“During the summer of 2017, I had to evacuate my home due to Hurricane Irma. This storm was so severe my school ended up being shut down permanently because of storm damage. This was a very hard experience for me because I am home schooled and my school is a place for other kids who are home schooled to gather and take classes together as a group. My mom worked at the school

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as well, so she lost her job and her income when the school shut down. My home had at least 18 inches of water in the front yard and I was up to my knees in the flood water. We had to put sandbags around our home to protect it from flood damage. I can't believe I had to evacuate from my home two years in a row and I am scared this is going to happen even more because of how climate change makes hurricanes stronger and more frequent.

"I have had recurring nightmares about the impacts of climate change on my home. In these nightmares, the barrier island and beaches are destroyed, and I can't figure out where I am or where I should go. It's dark and there are piles of leaves, sticks, and broken cars. I'm on the beach and there's nobody around me. I see rubble and wonder where my family and everyone else is. I wake up with a feeling of falling, and only then realize that I'm not standing on the beach and that it was just a dream . . .

"I desperately need my federal government to stop making the climate crisis worse so that I have a chance to stay on our barrier island and protect what I love. I know that there is a small amount of time left to act to protect our barrier island and my home. I know how important it is for the federal government to begin addressing climate change immediately and stop making it worse. Without changes, I'm afraid I will lose my home and that my nightmares will become real."

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## From the DECLARATION OF LEVI D. IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' URGENT MOTION UNDER CIRCUIT RULE 27-3(b) FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

KELSEY CASCADIA ROSE JULIANA, et al.,  
Plaintiffs-Appellees, vs. UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, et al., Defendants-Appellants.

## THE GREEN NEW DEAL

The *Green New Deal*, a series of proposals to move America off fossil fuels and save our climate, originated with six college graduates who had helped organize climate campaigns on their campuses, and who founded *Sunrise* (<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>), a movement of young people uniting to stop the climate crisis. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez worked with these young people before she was elected to Congress. Now, at age 29 (the youngest Congresswoman ever), Alexandria is championing the *Green New Deal* in Congress.



*Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez*



*Varshini Prakash*

The *Green New Deal* landed on the national stage in November, 2018, when members of *Sunrise* staged a sit-in in the

office of Nancy Pelosi. Interest in the group has soared since then. According to *Sunrise*, it has added over 100 local chapters since.

Leaders have outlined their plan for 2019, which includes fanning out across the country to recruit new members, demonstrating outside of Democratic primary debates and helping get candidates elected who support their vision.

“We need to elect champions who are going to stand for the ***Green New Deal***,” *Sunrise* co-founder Will Lawrence said. “And if we do that, we have a window of opportunity to actually pass this thing in 2021.”

So far, likely Democratic presidential contenders including Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker have supported the idea.

“We’re pissed off that our leaders have failed to do something about climate change,” Varshini Prakash said, “and we’re going to be left dealing with the repercussions of their inaction. So, we have to be the ones to do it if anything’s going to happen.”

*Sunrise’s* tone is decidedly optimistic, but the personal stories its members share include a healthy dose of outrage. And that isn’t unique to Americans. It’s echoed by young activists all over the world.

*Sunrise’s* Prakash says it’s no coincidence that young people around the world sound as if they’ve read from the same playbook. “This is a global fight to protect the future of human civilization, which is why we’re seeing people rise up in every corner of the world.”

## SUPPORT THE GREEN NEW DEAL !

### PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS

SB 100, a law passed in California last year, sets a steadily rising standard for California power generation companies: 50 percent renewables by 2026, 60 percent renewables by 2030 and 100 percent carbon-free—so as to include energy sources that aren't actually renewable, but don't emit carbon dioxide—by 2045. So wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, large hydro, nuclear power and natural gas paired with carbon capture and storage (C.C.S.) can all be utilized, plus whatever new clean power gets invented. And the steadily rising California standard guarantees they'll all have a growing market to sell into.

IF continues to support *Regeneration*, which organizes for climate change in Watsonville, and continues to fund young people who teach children conservation practices at Watsonville Wetlands.

# Membership Form

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