Integrities

www.integrities.org

WHAT TO SAY . . .
Board of Directors
Karen Cane
Adrienne Frisbee
Monika Hassler
Bill Leininger

Integrities Editorial Team
Bill Cane, Editor (bcane@baymoon.com)
Peter/Betty Michelozzi, Peggy Law,
Karen Cane - Art Editor

IF Office
Lauren Moody, Office Manager
if.laurenmoody@gmail.com
leave message (831) 724-4108

Integrities Editorial Team
Lucia Lopez
Phil McManus
Linda Wallace

Publishing, Format and Design
MMPublishing™ Janet Martinez

website: www.integrities.org
Like us on Facebook
IF: People Seeking Possibilities

2020 Events - RSVP appreciated*
831-724-4108 or 831-724-5526

April 26  Fundraiser for Terrabona Project
Spring Hike at Henry Cowell
Sponsored by IF
Hike begins at noon in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Date TBD  Latin America Dinner*
Saturday at 7:00 p.m.
Lake Freedom • 60 Sunflower Lane

* suggested sliding scale donation: $40-$75 per person

“I have spent a good while . . . not knowing what to write . . . We used to have the sense that the United States wanted to improve the world . . . We used to be known as the melting pot. . .”

Bill Cane

photo by Karen Cane

cover photo: anonymous from internet
WHAT TO SAY?

I have spent a good while staring at a blank piece of paper, not knowing what to write. I feel at a loss.

I have been thinking of the Statue of Liberty, which used to be a shining symbol of the United States: “Give me your poor, your huddled masses. . .” But what is happening now is the opposite of what the Statue stands for. Now, the US says “Keep Out!” We don’t want poor people coming here, and if they do come, we turn them away or put them in cages.

We used to have the sense that the United States wanted to improve the world. But now, by denying global warming and pulling out of alliances that are meant to improve the health of the world, we stand as a symbol of the destruction of life on earth.

We used to be known as a melting pot, where many differences were tolerated and brought together. But with White Supremacy raising its head, we aim to further one race only.

And I feel at a loss as to what to do about it. So I don’t know what to write.

LIGHT AND DARK

We recently had our yearly celebration of Light and Darkness here at Lake Freedom, which cheered me up. When people gathered in small groups to share what has been light and what has been darkness for them the past year, I felt hopeful. What was hopeful for me were the small steps that people are taking to bring back the Light.
It focused me on something that I can do, which is to take
small steps. The small steps may not change the world, but they can
change me, and help change some of the situations around me.

Not to take the small steps can lead to paralysis—to doing
nothing at all; so I began to write something, rather than nothing.
Even this small step made me feel better!

**DOING SOMETHING**

Judy Barry wrote us about small steps she and others are taking:

“A group of us here at Dominican Oaks (a senior residence)
meet weekly to address and mail postcards to registered Democrats
in other states facing special elections or maybe needing the phone
number for Vote-By-Mail ballots. Presumably this has made up to a
4% difference outcome in elections. A few weeks ago we wrote
voters in Louisiana and a very close result went to the Democrat.
It helps us to feel we are doing SOMETHING!”
CLIMATE DENIAL—CHALLENGING US TO ACT

Greta Thunberg, the young Swedish climate activist, keeps challenging us to take steps to stop killing life on earth:

‘The change we need is not going to come from the people in power as it is now. The change is going to come from the masses, from the people demanding action. And that is us. We are the ones who are going to bring change. The current world leaders are betraying us, and we will not let that happen anymore…

For more than 30 years the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away, and come here saying that you are doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

With today’s emissions levels, our remaining CO2 budget will be gone in less than 8.5 years
You say you “hear” us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I don’t want to believe that. Because if you fully understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And I refuse to believe that.

The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5C degrees, and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

Maybe 50% is acceptable to you. But those numbers don’t include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of justice and equity. They also rely on my and my children’s generation sucking hundreds of billions of tonnes of your CO2 out of the air with technologies that barely exist. So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us—we who have to live with the consequences.

To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5C global temperature rise—the best odds given by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—the world had 420 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide left to emit back on 1 January 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatonnes. How dare you pretend that this can be solved with business-as-usual and some technical solutions. With today’s emissions levels, that remaining CO2 budget will be entirely gone in less than eight and a half years.
You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us I say we will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.”

**LOCAL GROUPS TAKING IMPORTANT STEPS**

Here are a few of the local groups in Santa Cruz County that are taking important steps to give light and spark hope:

Immigrant Legal Services for the Central Coast (ILSCC) is the only non-profit in the tri-county area (Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito) that provides full-scope, affordable, legal representation on immigration matters. Over the last year, ILSCC staff was able to resolve 81 immigration cases with a 98% success rate (i.e., applications approved).

The **Warming Center Program** ensures that no one has to sleep outside on the worst nights of winter. On nights of extreme temperature and rain, the Warming Center creates the opportunity
for everyone who needs it to seek warm, clean, safe and dignifying shelter. It also runs a Day and Night Storage and a weekly laundry.

The **Association of Faith Communities** operates a transitional homeless shelter that rotates each night among its member religious congregations. It also operates Safe Spaces, which enables homeless persons and families to park their vehicles on member congregation lots, and SPIN, which has distributed over 30,000 socks at area shelters and food kitchens.

The **Resource Center for Nonviolence** is a peace and justice organization promoting the practice of nonviolence as a dynamic means of affecting personal change and creating a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. The Center works with allies locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to support the growth of nonviolent activists. It provides resources for critical reflection and constructive action, leadership development, and individual and group empowerment, thereby encouraging diverse groups and individuals to address social problems by life-affirming, nonviolent means.

**Watsonville Wetlands Watch** advocates for wetland issues, educates elementary, middle, and high school students, prepares youth for careers in environmental sciences, restores degraded habitats, preserves what remains whole, and teaches appreciation for the unique beauty and life of the Pajaro Valley wetlands.
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County is a contemporary example of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes. It sources over 8 million pounds of food each year from farms, grocery stores, food manufacturers, distributors, and individuals, and distributes it to 100 food pantries, schools, soup kitchens, group homes, youth centers, and more, plus another 100 Second Harvest program sites. It reaches 55,000 people each month, providing four meals for every $1 donated—thanks to its extensive relationships with farmers, retailers, food bank networks, and dedicated volunteers.

IF has made grants to Regeneración—Valley Climate Action, Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the Santa Cruz County Immigration Projects.

Thank you for your support of IF, and for all the steps that you are taking to make our world a better place. Every step gives us hope.

If you wish to contribute an article or some thoughts to Integrities, simply send them by email to Bill Cane (bcane@baymoon.com). Thank you.
Photos courtesy of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch.

Projects include planting hundreds of trees on streets and parks throughout Watsonville, cleaning the Struve Slough and conducting classes for the local elementary and high schools addressing the global challenge of climate change.

IF is proud to help support such inspiring projects locally.
LET INTEGRITIES BRING NEW POSSIBILITIES TO YOU, TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY.

Your tax-deductible donation includes a one-year Integrities subscription and IF membership.

Please send Integrities to:

Subscriber Name and Mailing Address       This is for myself_____This is a gift*_______
(please print clearly) (please check one)
_______________________________________________________________________
First Name Last Name

Address
_______________________________________________________________________
City State Zip

Phone Number Email

I would like to give a gift subscription. Enclosed is a $15 (or more) donation. Please write the following message on my gift card:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Yes____Please send me the email version of Integrities. (Please be sure your email account is not blocked and that you have printed your email address legibly.)

Yes____Please send me the printed version of Integrities

Yes____Please send me both the Email and Printed version of Integrities.

Feel free to duplicate this page for as many subscriptions as you need.

Please tear out this page and mail with check made payable to

IF • 160 Sunflower Lane • Watsonville, CA 95076 • Thank you!