

Integrities

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WHAT TO SAY . . .

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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*

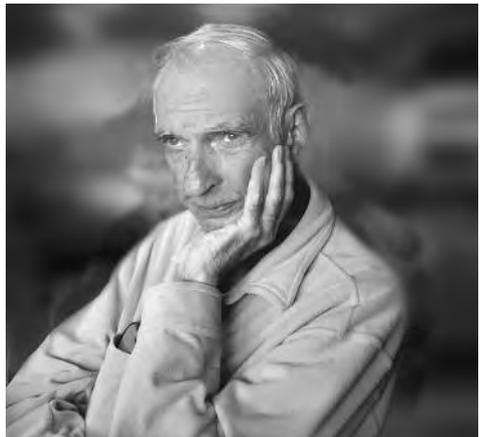
Saturday at 7:00 p.m.
Lake Freedom • 60 Sunflower Lane

*** 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!”





*Photo by
Shmuel
Thaler -
Santa Cruz
Sentinel of
seniors from
Domenican
Oaks
making
signs for
Climate
Strike in
Santa Cruz*

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.”



*“The eyes of all future generations
are upon you.”*

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.

Integrities



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.



Membership Form

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