

Thu, Mar 21, 2024

CALIFORNIA



We are once again gearing up for our statewide "Beyond Vietnam" readings, where we revive Dr. King's powerful words about war and American imperialism. The speech has taken on a new urgency, and we hope you'll help us spread it far and wide. Learn how to get involved below; you'll also see an invite to a Women's History Month event and more.

Announcements

CALIFORNIA
Poor People's Campaign
A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

**Beyond Vietnam:
A Time to Break Silence**

public online reading
Thursday April 4, 2024
6:30 PM PT

register bit.ly/CAPPC_BeyondVietnam2024

Spanish and ASL interpretation

Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter,
but beautiful, struggle for a new world.
—Dr ML King
Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence

Join us in bringing Dr. King's prophetic vision to life

Thursday April 4, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

On April 4, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, California PPC is once again organizing readings of his speech "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence"—a tradition that the PPC has honored for years with gatherings both in-person and online.

This speech could not be more relevant today. With its demands for a unilateral ceasefire, it reminds us that we must call for an end to all wars and occupations around the world—and for the redirection of resources from the industries of violence to providing for the wellbeing of all people everywhere and the preservation of our environment.

We will gather on the evening of April 4 from around the state to read Dr. King's speech together.

JOIN US

Additional participatory readings will take place on or near that day. If you're planning a reading in your community, either online or in person, let us know by filling out this [form](#). We can provide materials and helpful tips for organizing your event.

Want to help us prepare for this year's reading or find out more about organizing your own? Great! Come to our Wednesday evening [online meetings](#).

Some background: On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before his assassination, Dr. King delivered the prophetic "Beyond Vietnam" speech at the Riverside Church in New York City. "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values," he said. "We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

The speech was controversial, even among Dr. King's admirers. Despite widespread censure, he continued to speak out against the war for the rest of his life.

Empowering Voices: Women’s History Month discussion with Rev.

Theoharis

Monday March 25, 4–5pm PT | [RSVP](#)

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis will join the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (which serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George’s County, Maryland), the Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a special WHM discussion.

Meetings

Statewide organizing meetings

Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

In the coming weeks we’ll be organizing our annual events for April 4: the anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination, and the day in 1967 when he delivered his seminal speech outlining the devastating impact of our country’s Vietnam War on both America’s and Vietnam’s poor. His words speak to us with the same urgency and relevance today. At our Wednesday meetings, you’ll meet activists from around the state and take part in educating, registering and mobilizing our communities for these historic actions and the November election. It’s a place to lend a hand and to learn from one another.

Recap



Rally to End Homelessness comes to the Capitol

Last Saturday, CA PPC’s Bay Area region joined [Tiny Village Spirit](#) youth, who are involved in a Richmond-based tiny homes program, for a [Rally to End Homelessness](#) on the west steps of the capitol in Sacramento. Beautifully decorated planks that will surround the village were on display with messages of love and demands for housing justice.

The urgent need for youth to be housed was a recurring theme starting with Inti Gonzalez, youth organizer at Tiny Village Spirit. After reading the group’s housing demands, she taped them on the door of the Capitol. Other speakers included Freeway, a former resident of Wood Street Commons, and Keith McHenry, cofounder of Food Not Bombs.

CA PPC quad chair Nell Myhand spoke on behalf of the campaign in support of known, viable solutions that could house unhoused people and keep renters in their homes. She also made the case against cuts to programs that work to keep people housed.

Check out [more photos](#) and watch [news coverage](#) of the action.

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE

News

Webinar replay: Towards Ending Poverty and Building Ecojustice for Women and Communities

Last Friday, Rev. Theoharis joined a [webinar](#) discussion presented by the Temple of Understanding. Other speakers included Dr. Riane Eisler, president of the Center for Partnership Systems, and Theresa Ardler, aboriginal activist, artist and director of Gweagal Cultural Connections. New and old ways to share care, wealth and community resilience were discussed, along with the political pathways to make it all possible.

“Caring economies, circular economies and degrowth economies can lead to more gender justice and more eco-justice,” wrote the event’s organizers. “Shifting from devastating extractive and shortsighted greed and addiction-based economic models is imperative. We can shift to values in practice, including caring and partnership among people and with nature.”

Rev. Theoharis spoke with compassion and purpose: “A third of the U.S. electorate are poor and low-income people, and yet too few of our politicians are talking about things like poverty and living wages, the child tax credit, health care, clean water and air, which are the concerns of the majority of women—more than half of those impacted.”

She went on: “It costs the U.S. \$1 trillion a year, just because we have so many poor kids. It is actually *more* costly not to end poverty than to end it. What we need is the political will. So what we are doing at the Kairos Center and in the Poor People’s Campaign is, in the words of Dr. King, ‘making those in power say yes when they may be desirous of saying no.’ [We are] building that moral consciousness and political will to have a different way.... It means mobilizing and organizing, registering and educating for a movement that votes.”

Watch the webinar replay [here](#).

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.