

Thu, Mar 28, 2024

# CALIFORNIA



*Get out your calendars: This newsletter is full of actions and meetings that could keep you busy—and energized—over the next week or so. Learn about the Beyond Vietnam readings and a Good Friday “Via Crucis” in support of hotel workers. Sign up for a meeting, check out some news updates and, last but not least, read some encouraging words about the PPC from Ralph Nader.*

## 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](https://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

The poster features a photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pointing to a screen displaying a collage of faces. The background is a solid orange color.

### Next week: Go “Beyond Vietnam”

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

California PPC’s group readings of Dr. Martin Luther King’s prophetic speech “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” are coming up. It’s a tradition that the PPC has honored for years with gatherings both in-person and online.

Why are we reading this speech?

Last month the White House released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025, including \$1.6 trillion in discretionary spending. \$69 out of every \$100 federal dollars in this proposal go toward militarization and its support systems, including \$850 billion for the Pentagon, \$34 billion for nuclear weapons and \$11.6 billion in international military aid—so far. This leaves just 31 percent of the discretionary budget for everything else, including housing programs, public education, public health and environmental protection.

Dr. King’s words could not be more relevant today. This speech reminds us that we must call for an end to all wars and occupations around the world—and demand the redirection of resources from the industries of violence to providing for the wellbeing of all people everywhere and the preservation of our environment.

### JOIN US

We will gather on the evening of April 4 at 6:30pm from around the state to read Dr. King’s speech together online. In-person readings will take place on or near that day; details below. If you’re planning a reading in your community, let us know by filling out this [form](#). We can provide materials and helpful hints.

If you’re able, please join a local in-person reading and bring a friend:

#### Oakland

12pm

Oakland City Hall (Oscar Grant Plaza)

More info: Jackie Cabasso, [wslf@earthlink.net](mailto:wslf@earthlink.net)

Sponsored by Western States Legal Foundation

## **Santa Cruz**

7pm

[612 Ocean Street](#), Santa Cruz 95060

More info: Peter Klotz-Chamberlin, [peter@rcnv.org](mailto:peter@rcnv.org)

Sponsored by Resource Center for Nonviolence

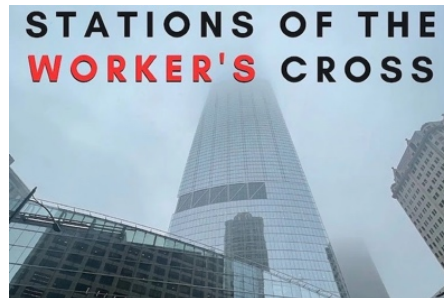
## **Los Angeles**

1pm

[426 S. Alexandria Ave.](#) Los Angeles 90020 (Alexandria House)

More info: Nancy Berlin, [nancyanneberlin@gmail.com](mailto:nancyanneberlin@gmail.com)

Sponsored by Alexandria House



## **Stand with L.A. workers on Good Friday**

### **Stations of the Worker's Cross**

**Friday March 29, 12pm**

**Hotel Figueroa ([939 S. Figueroa St, Los Angeles 90015](#))**

Join us as we walk with hospitality workers from the Hotel Figueroa on their own "Via Crucis." Together we'll show how the Passion of Christ echoes in the denial of workers' rights and dignity in Los Angeles today. Despite all the [impressive victories](#) (new contracts ratified with 34 hotels!), workers at 30 hotels across L.A. and Orange County continue to struggle for a just contract.

## Upcoming meetings

### **Statewide organizing meetings**

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

At next week's meeting, we'll be getting ready for the online reading of Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech the following day. There are lots of ways to pitch in. His words speak to us with the same urgency and relevance today.

Our Wednesday meetings are a time to meet activists from around the state and take part in educating, registering and mobilizing our communities for these historic actions and the November election. Come lend a hand and learn from others.

### **Los Angeles regional meeting**

**Saturday April 7, 3pm | [RSVP](#)**

Angelenos: Help us plan to register, educate and mobilize low-income people to vote!

We'll also have a debrief of our April 4 Beyond Vietnam reading and discuss how we can act to dismantle the war economy. All are welcome—please invite your family, friends and communities.

## News



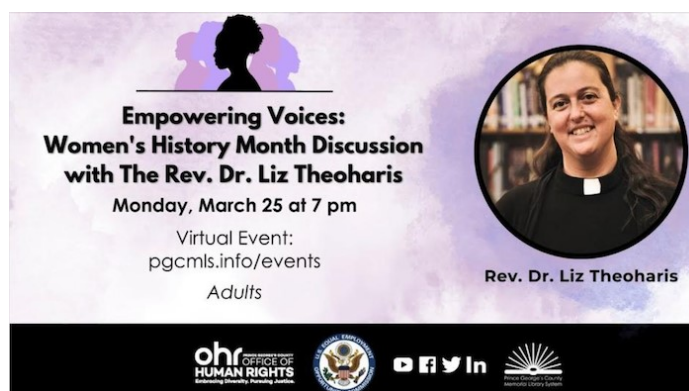
### **Bishop Barber lectures at Baylor University**

Bishop Barber was a guest speaker in the Whitten Endowed Lecture Series at Waco, Texas's Baylor University, which is focused on the expression of Christian faith in the public square. [This video](#) of the event includes an introduction with moving testimony of PPC activists from around the country.

"I love America," Bishop Barber said. "But I love America enough to recognize that we have potential that is yet unreached and repentance that is yet unspoken. Until we do, we cannot further realize what it means to even try to be a more perfect union. America is a democracy that has needed a lot of work.... Over and over again in America, we have had the need for reconstruction. Driving this need for reconstruction has been the role that racism and classism have played in deconstructing the commitments that were written down in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence."

He added that "reconstruction and change is a necessity of citizenship itself!"

Watch the [lecture](#) now.



### **Rev. Theoharis joins Women's History Month discussion**

On Monday, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis joined the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, the County Office of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a special Women's History Month [webinar](#) discussion.

Looking back in time for inspiration, Rev. Theoharis said, "When we look through history, we see moments of great social transformation, when people are able to achieve rights

and dignity, like we are promised in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence... when 'we, the people' do something together.”

She continued, speaking about the power of a fusion movement: “Successful movements are led by those who are most impacted by the injustices that they are trying to resolve. In the words of Frederick Douglass, ‘Those in pain know when their pain is relieved. Those who would be free must strike the first blow,’ but those movements have to involve people from all walks of life, who see each other as siblings trying to build a better world.” Watch the [webinar](#) replay now.

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## 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**

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## In the media

### **Ralph Nader promotes PPC, quotes Bishop Barber**

In a [Common Dreams](#) opinion piece, Ralph Nader levels harsh criticism of the Democratic party's typical election-year behaviors, arguing that it should “advance a much overdue agenda to curb the corporate crime wave; repeal anti-labor laws; junk the corrupt tax system written by big corporate tax escapees; debloat the vast, wasteful, redundant military budget; and push for the popular Medicare-for-All legislation languishing for years in Congress—for starters.”

The piece includes an encouraging PPC reference: “As Bishop William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, so cogently points out, just getting out 10–15% more low-wage and poor voters would easily help the Democrats win the national presidential election.” Like the PPC, Nader highlights the critical importance of listening to poor and low-wealth voters, and of committing to mobilize, register, educate and vote in November.

Nader also welcomed Bishop Barber onto the [Ralph Nader Radio Hour](#) earlier this month to discuss the March 2 Mass Assembly and the PPC's GOTV efforts.

Listen to their conversation [here](#).

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*