



our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

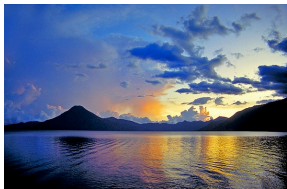
13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

odw calendar:

Sat. Sept 10 potluck & program: Sharat Lin shares experiences in North Korea

Thurs. Sept 15 5:30 potluck, eating while viewing 6 pm documentary film The Brainwashing of My Dad (shown throughout the country)



Thurs. Sept 29 Chati Cajas, our dearest Mayan friend and lawyer in Guatemala will share her life story

Arabic proverbs:

“Wisdom consists of ten parts: nine parts silence, and one part a few words.”
“Examine what is said, not who is speaking.”

A BIG tip for deepening the conversation: Listen!

Guatemala

Visiting the beautiful aromatic organic garden at Hotel Toliman took me back to 1970 when we first visited Guatemala and saw poor farmers using sustainable methods. This time we walked on paths that produced aromas from herbs: a bonus! The visit to the fair trade coffee processing coop let me take home 6 bags of their Cafe Justicia coffee to sell!

Visiting Santiago, the most densely Maya populated town in the country gave us incredible experiences: Adisa, the school and center for disabled from infants to adults. They work with families and communities to learn specific needs and employable skills and get donations of equipment they need for their clients. They

make recycled paper jewelry and bowls and plates, bead work.(part of our international handcraft sale!) Jose took us around in his wheelchair, to introduce us to people working and so we could see how they made their products. Then we visited the Peace Park which the army took over in the '80s for their garrison. Routinely soldiers raped young village girls. When the people had had enough they marched to the garrison to protest to the commander. 13 people were shot dead by soldiers and many injured including Jose who became dependent on a wheel chair. That was the beginning of ousting the army. Decades later that was made a part of the peace accords. The army is NEVER to enter Santiago.

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

Many women's weaving coops there and in San Juan where we saw the entire process from spinning to dying to weaving.

We went to a Mayan sacred center, a cofradia, where we met the grandfather trickster and experienced how he was treated.

In San Juan Maria Feliciano told how she went into the mountains to work with a nun while she was at the university. She worked with the poor, drove miles and miles to get to them and then by foot. After she graduated Bishop Julio put her in charge of the entire diocese social justice program which she used to help the women stop being silent and become leaders.

Chati will share her experiences from the US overthrowing Arbenz in 1954, (elected in 1950

initiating badly needed agricultural reform, the 8 hour day, 5 or 6 day week.) The military was in power again. The brutality was terrible against the poor Mayan guerrillas and the people who supported them. Thousand were killed and disappeared. Then General Rios Mont was elected, an evangelical converted by a group from Eureka, CA and became as brutal as all the other dictators. Thanks to the UN there was a commission to end impunity as part of the Peace Process which Chati will talk about. But as in many Latin American countries, especially Canadian companies, are extracting minerals and building hydro electric dams and people are protesting. One group was imprisoned for one year but were just released. SO

people are happy and resilient.

This Reality Tour was so outstanding we'll do it again in 2018!

We Need Giraffes

Ever been bullied? Ever seen someone bullied and intervened? That's being a giraffe: sticking your neck out.

Kaepernick was a giraffe! When he was taken to task about disrespecting veterans which he didn't intend, he talked with a marine and modified his action to kneeling instead of sitting. He ignored a Fox host who asked again a question he'd already answered and continued to call out San Francisco cops for racist texts. We need giraffes, especially well known ones, but we all need to stick our necks out for what's

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

right or needs to be changed. And thanks to the 49ers for keeping him on!

Another giraffe!

“Californians for Justice was the defining moment for me where I realized that I could make a difference in my community.”

“Before Californians for Justice, I never imagined that I would call myself a leader. I was shy and quiet. I wasn’t sure that I had what it takes to be a leader. Leaders can stand up and speak in front of a large room filled with people. They are confident. They aren't quiet.

“It was when I found Californians for Justice I realized that leaders are so much more than confidence and their ability

to speak in front of hundreds of people.

“I found my leadership at Californians for Justice. I went door-to-door in my neighborhood to



raise awareness about Proposition 47. The proposition would put money back into our schools and create programs to support communities.

“With each door, my confidence grew. I felt the need to speak. The feelings of uneasiness went away. The mothers and abuelitas I out-reached to reminded me of my family. It was then I learned that leaders are much more than confidence. Anyone can

lead something. But I knew that the kind of leader I wanted to be was the leader that makes a difference in peoples lives. I knew that passing Prop 47

would have a positive impact on our communities.

So when prop 47 passed in 2014, I was proud to have the opportunity to be a part of that win. It was because of this experience I realized that this was just the beginning of my leadership.

“Thank you for supporting me and believing in the potential of my leadership. Francisco Cortez, Californians for Justice Youth Leader”

[Find out how what Francisco did to take his](#)

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

leadership to the next level.

Francisco is a sophomore at Overfelt high school in San Jose. He has been a youth leader with Californians For Justice for two years.

Over the last 20 years, Californians for Justice has developed the leadership of thousands of young people in our communities.

Let's celebrate 20 years of youth leadership and power!

The Elders are independent global leaders, brought together by Nelson Mandela, who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

The Elders

- [Nelson Mandela \(Founder\)](#)
- [Martti Ahtisaari](#)
- [Kofi Annan](#)
- [Ela Bhatt](#)
- [Lakhdar Brahimi](#)
- [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#)
- [Fernando H C doso \(Honorary Elder\)](#)
- [Jimmy Carter \(Honorary Elder\)](#)
- [Hina Jilani](#)
- [Ricardo Lagos](#)
- [Graça Machel](#)
- [Mary Robinson](#)
- [Desmond Tutu \(Honorary Elder\)](#)
- [Ernesto Zedillo](#)

Following the agreement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals last September, the Elders considered carefully how they can best contribute to making the Goals a success. In that regard, The Elders have decided to champion

UHC as a vital way to achieve the health SDG. They believe that advocacy at top political levels and support for civil society efforts can help secure health care for everyone. UHC means that everybody receives the health services they need without financial hardship and is a key target within the SDGs. Our UHC initiative has four key messages:

- UHC is the best way to achieve the [health Sustainable Development Goal](#)
- UHC delivers substantial [health, economic and political benefits](#) across populations
- [Women, children and adolescents must be covered as a priority](#)
- [Public financing](#) is the key to UHC

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

At Women Deliver, where nearly 6,000 activists came together to debate and exchange views, these messages were conveyed at a panel discussion featuring **Gro Harlem Brundtland, Hina Jilani** and **Graça Machel** and moderated by **Michael Myers** of the Rockefeller Foundation, together with media events and meetings with other UHC campaigners.

We premiered a [new Elders film on UHC](#) which also features contributions from **Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter, Mary Robinson** and **Ernesto Zedillo**.

It is vital that the warm words and lofty aims of the SDGs are translated into practical actions that benefit the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world.

From our perspective, UHC is indeed an "achievable dream", as Amartya Sen, the Nobel Laureate development economist has said.

The Elders will therefore advocate strongly for it over the coming months, together with like-minded militants for equity and social justice.



Drugs Black Lives Matter Makes Powerful Connection With Racist Drug War

A National Town Hall recently took up the question of how Black Lives Matter fits in with drug reform.

By Phillip Smith / AlterNet (edited for length)
The Black Lives Matter movement sprung out of the unjust killings of young black men. But as the movement blossomed and matured, BLM began turning its attention to a broader critique of the institutional racism behind police violence against the black population.

While the war on drugs plays a central role in generating conflict between the black community and law enforcement, and the numbers incarcerated, the critique of institutional racism in policing and the criminal justice system necessarily implicates the nation's drug policies. The grim statistics of racially biased drug law enforcement

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

are well-known: blacks make up about 13% of the population, but 30% of all drug arrests; blacks account for nearly 90% of all federal crack cocaine prosecutions; black federal crack offenders were sentenced to far more prison time than white powder cocaine offenders; blacks and other minorities are disproportionately targeted in traffic stop and stop-and-frisks despite being less likely than whites to be carrying drugs, and so on.

People who have been spent careers working in the drug reform movement didn't need the publication of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* to understand the corrosive and screamingly unfair impact of drug war racism

on black communities, but the 2010 broadside helped open eyes outside the movement and deepened the visceral impact of drug war racism for those already in the trenches. The issue is joined by Latino and Asian organization. Despite efforts by leading drug reform groups like the Drug Policy Alliance, the world of drug reform remains overwhelmingly white. Ed note: US foreign war on drug reform is also taking many tax dollars and is creating much violence here and in Central American countries as well as Mexico.

In recent months, Black Lives Matter activists released Campaign Zero, Campaign Zero calls for decriminalizing marijuana within the context of a broader call for moving away from

"broken windows" policing, as well as demanding an end to mass stop-and-frisk and racial profiling policies, both impelled in large part by the drug war, also an end to "policing for profit," whether through issuing tickets for revenue-raising purposes or through another drug war creation, the use of civil asset forfeiture to seize cash and goods from people without convicting them of a crime (sometimes without even arresting them).

Most of the other Campaign Zero policy proposals regarding police use of force, militarization and community control don't directly address the war on drugs, but because the drug war is so pervasive, it is implicated with them as well. According to the FBI, drug offenses

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

were the single largest category of arrests made, constituting 1.5 million of the 11 million arrests nationwide last year.

People have to open their minds to new paradigms, the panelists warned. "People are so wedded to the institution of policing they can't even imagine something different, something radical," said Cullors. "We have to transform the way our communities have been completely devastated by the war on drugs."

"We are at a historic moment right now, a moment where freedom looks different to people than how it looked before," said Peterson-Small. "Harriet Tubman famously said she could have freed more slaves if the people only knew

they were slaves—that's the psychology of enslavement. What we need now is a conversation about white people who believe they're free when they're not," she said. (Ed note. Sadly Larry Willmore's Comedy Central Show has not been renewed. The only TV show having these kinds of conversations.)

"We black people already know we're not free," Small continued. "I worry about the people who believe they're free, the people who think the police are your friends, that they're here to serve and protect you. police in your lives."

The legacy of slavery lives on all too vividly in the modern criminal justice system, she said.

"Policing is the way white America continues to replicate the cycle of enslavement, the power dynamic on which this society is based. Every time a black man is arrested, it's a reenactment of that dynamic," Peterson-Small said.

"We believe in two incompatible things," she told the audience. "We believe that we live in a free and democratic country where anyone who works hard can succeed, but we also know we live in a country established by and for the benefit of white men. White folks are in denial about that incompatibility, but it's no longer possible to pretend something that's been going on for 200 years hasn't been happening."

our developing world's voices fall '16

odw@magiclink.net www.ourdevelopingworld.org

13004 Paseo Presada corner Paseo Lado, Saratoga, lavender door
408-379-4431 [For full issue please click](#)

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/newletters.html>

Drone whistle-blower Cian Westmoreland, another Giraffe!

First Roots Action Drone Whistle blower fellowship

*"A general rule is that **all war technology finds its way back home.** We are already seeing this play out within our police forces, and there's a keen interest in military robots at this time.*

*"The **cultural arrogance** that has lead our governments into thinking that we can win wars by bombing people and playing half-finished games of human chess is **leading us toward a world where a few own all the wealth, our military and in-***

telligence personnel are bought and sold on the stock market, and robots will one day protect whomever the highest bidder is.

"It's really up to us to prevent this nightmare from happening; by 'us' I mean anyone who reads this.

"We need to create strong networks of individuals from the technical, political, media, and activist domains for an effective critical mass. We need to unite. We need to strategize, and devise methodical approaches to push this issue forward. We need to recognize all points of leverage at our disposal and creatively and constructively utilize them.

*"As the late great Martin Luther King once said, **'Those who love Peace must***

***learn to organize as effectively as those who love War.'** This is timeless advice we should all meditate on thoroughly.*

We've showcased several Giraffes. Please let us know of others who need publicizing. And don't be afraid to be one yourself... You'll be surprised at the positive response you get!

Do join others for vigils and protests, together we have more power and drivers will honk their agreement! Build your peace community! People need to know they're not alone!

Our peace vigilers go out to dinner after to carry on the conversation.

Write letters to the editor!