Local

January 17 Meeting
Bay Area Writer Roberto Lovato on “Unforgetting”, about Salvadoran Roots.

For decades engaged Americans have heard about the harsh treatment of (among those of other Central American countries) citizens of El Salvador. That country’s governments have committed human rights violations that include assassinations, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, imprisonment and torture of many of its people who dared to question its repressive rule. A great many of the perpetrators of these perverse ways of governing received their training in (and often approval from) the U.S., at the former School of the Americas – now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, or WHINSEC – in Fort Benning, GA.

Throughout that time, the Salvadoran government’s lack of attention to – and even tacit approval of – drug gang activity has resulted in ever more difficult times for its people, leading them to seek asylum elsewhere. The U.S. is a frequent destination, but the policies of the Trump administration have in recent times made our country a less than viable option. Detention camps, forced separation of children from their parents, and the possible deportation back to a place they came to fear are hallmarks of these policies. Meanwhile Salvadoran gangs, MS-13 best-known among them, long ago established a foothold in the U.S.

San Francisco-born educator, journalist and writer Roberto Lovato has tapped into his Salvadoran roots to create the book “Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs and Revolution in the Americas”. In the book Roberto recounts growing up in the Mission District with the presence of gangs, the struggles of his heritage, and a difficult relationship with his Salvadoran immigrant father who brought a traumatic legacy to his family and his life.

On Sunday, January 17, Roberto will be the special guest of Peace Action of San Mateo County as he reads from and discusses Unforgetting. He will answer questions about the book itself, as well as its creation and purpose. The event will begin at 7 PM on the Zoom platform; for the link, email smpa@sanmateopeaceaction.org.

From Roberto’s web site: “In Unforgetting, Roberto interweaves his father’s complicated history and his own with first-hand reportage on gang life, state violence, and the heart of the immigration crisis in both El Salvador and the United States. In doing so he makes the political personal, revealing the cyclical ways violence operates in our homes and our societies, as well as the ways hope El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and the U.S. His reporting has appeared in Guernica Magazine, the Boston Globe, Foreign Policy and tenderness can rise up out of the darkness if we are courageous enough to unforget.”

Roberto Lovato is a member of the The Writers Grotto, a Bay Area-based creative community of writers and artists. A reporting grant from the Pulitzer Center has enabled him to report on the drug war, violence, and terrorism in such places as Mexico, Venezuela, magazine, the Guardian, and the Los Angeles Times (which called Unforgetting “one of the ten best California books of 2020”), among other publications.

Don’t miss this unique evening with Roberto Lovato – a local writer offering a compelling story.

Summary of November 15 Meeting
Next Steps for America

With the 2020 elections recently completed and the Presidential results established and announced, it was East Bay Peace Action’s good fortune on November 15, for its virtual annual meeting, that its guest speakers had some definitive reflections on what lies ahead for the U.S.. PASMC, for its November program, migrated (again, virtually) across the bay to join a program that featured Abraham Entin of the Bay Area Poor People’s Campaign and Eric See from the Peace Action national office, addressing their respective organizations’ take on the elections and our country.

Abraham introduced the Poor People’s Campaign – subtitled “A National Call for Moral Revival” – based on the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Poor People’s Campaign, said Abraham, is grounded in Dr. King’s call for nonviolence and the idea that everyone is equal in the “beloved community”.

After recounting his personal transformation in the 1960s from aspiring law school student to peace activist, Abraham invoked Dr. King’s words of the “triple threat” of militarism, poverty and racism. Asserting these “needed to be confronted as a whole”, Abraham talked about the addition a few years ago of ecological destruction and the “false narrative of religious nationalism”,...
which puts the sacred claims of one group above others. He in fact termed it “part of the ‘othering’” that leads to war – which itself he called a “crippling activity” that “pollutes everywhere it goes,” and an obstacle to the cooperation needed to solve the world’s problems.

Abraham talked about the “MORE” campaign for the 2020 elections: “Mobilize, Organize, Register, Educate”. It reached out to poor people who hadn’t voted, and Abraham felt the effort helped tip the results in some swing states. He called the results a “reprieve”, surely meaning in terms of ousting Donald Trump, but also noted the issue of voters who “self-disenfranchise” when candidates from both major political parties only show up at election time and make promises to get votes. Thus it is important, he said, for poor people to rise up and support progressive candidates (none of whom lost seats, he added, despite the blame they took from mainstream Democrats for a narrower majority in the House of Representatives). “We have a power that we can tap”.

Abraham detailed the peace-related elements of the Poor People’s Campaign’s “Jubilee Platform”. It includes cutting the military budget by $350 billion, getting rid of nuclear and other unnecessary weapons, closing foreign military bases, and cutting the Overseas Contingency Operations budget that finances war-making beyond the defense budget. He also noted the organizing principle of the Campaign: “A movement that starts at the bottom raises everyone.”

Eric See, national Peace Action’s Senior Director for Outreach and Organizing Campaigns, then talked about the organization’s efforts in the elections and what the results may mean. Eric called Peace Voter 2020 the organization’s “biggest and most ambitious election program in decades”, sending more organizers, raising more money for more candidates and reaching more voters than they had in a long time. A chief goal, he said, was beating Trump, (though Peace Action did not endorse Joe Biden), and the targets were typically “swing states”. In conjunction with that effort were a number of Senate and House races that the organization did endorse, based mostly on the progressive leanings of some candidates, often along with the dismal record of their opponents where Peace Action was concerned. Eric felt the many thousands of voters they turned out in endorsed Congressional races – 85% of which they won – helped beat Trump.

Eric addressed the perception of Trump as “anti-war” with observations that Trump actually expanded the U.S. air war, maintained troop levels around the world, increased tensions with and crippling sanctions on Iran, and vetoed bipartisan legislation in Congress that would have halted U.S. weapons sales that exacerbated the war on Yemen. He also decimated the diplomatic corps and cut funding for the State Department, and pulled the U.S. out of various international treaties meant to keep the world more safe.

“The road ahead is not going to be easy”, said Eric, despite a new President and a strengthening of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Rejoining the Iran Nuclear Deal and stopping U.S. participation in Yemen will both be complicated. Biden’s record of supporting existing nuclear arms and other international agreements is a source of hope. But Biden could be in a relatively weak position if the Democrats don’t win both Senate races in Georgia (where Peace Action had continued to organize) and capture a slim advantage in that chamber. Still, he will have a “bully pulpit” and the chance to undo some of the foreign-policy damage of the last four years. On that, progressives in Congress, as well as organizations like Peace Action, will also support him. On the subject of military spending, which will arise as Biden submits a new budget in February, Eric held out hope that a strong push could prevent any increases while progressives in Congress could lay the groundwork for decreases...though there will also be resistance from the right and perhaps some of the center. Eric noted that the arms industry will have less time than usual to push a new administration for increases. Meanwhile, he didn’t foresee much headway on the North Korea issue, as was also the case in the Obama and Trump years which featured a minimum of political will on all sides to get results.

All in all, Eric sees a Biden administration as a “mixed bag”, with a number of possible results, including “blunting the worst effects of the military-industrial complex.” With that goal in mind, both Peace Action and the Poor People’s Campaign will keep up its level of communication and relationship-building in Washington...and we should participate as well.

Ron Zucker

www.peaceaction.org

www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

January 23: Join us on the Corner for Nuclear Abolition

A significant milestone awaits us in 2021: The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will enter into force on Friday, January 22. Drafted in a series of conferences by non-nuclear weapons states and ratified last fall by a mandated number of them, this is a United Nations-sponsored answer to the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which has important articles but has yielded few results in terms of getting rid of nuclear weapons.

On Saturday, January 23, PASMC will make a rare appearance at our normal Saturday location of 3rd Avenue at El Camino Real in San Mateo, in front of the Bank of
Spencer traced the “huge growth” of the far-right to nationalists striving for a “white ethno-state” that formalizes on Mexican immigrants. Those and similar talking points got the attention of white nationalists, who in 2016 saw their biggest wave of popularity since the Trump’s candidacy, marked by his early abrasive comments on Mexican immigrants. Those and similar talking points got the attention of white nationalists, who in 2016 saw their biggest wave of popularity since the worst election-day scenarios have not come to pass (albeit with some time still remaining before Joe Biden’s inauguration), Spencer did offer an overview of the far right that we would all do well to keep in mind as we watch ongoing events in the coming year. And he also has made free and available a guidebook on ways to oppose nuclear weapons!

Summary of October 18 Meeting
A View of the Far Right
A little over 2 ½ weeks before Election Day, Spencer Sunshine, a writer and researcher of far-right movements in the U.S., joined us for a virtual meeting to talk about that end of the political spectrum and how it might affect the then-upcoming elections. While at press time most of the worst election-day scenarios have not come to pass (albeit with some time still remaining before Joe Biden’s inauguration), Spencer did offer an overview of the far right that we would all do well to keep in mind as we watch ongoing events in the coming year. And he also has made free and available a guidebook on ways to oppose fascism.

Spencer broke down the American far right into two factions (which, like the left, he said, don’t always get along): The “white nationalists” consist of groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and the “Alt-right”, started by Richard Spencer. Peaking at 100,000 members, this is the smaller of the groups. Of far greater numbers – probably the millions – are the “right-wing populists”, who are more associated with the Republican party and Donald Trump (with his firm grip on the party). This faction includes militia groups, anti-immigrant and islamophobic groups, conspiracy theorists and violent groups such as the Proud Boys. Spencer in fact termed the white nationalists a “subset” of the right-wing populists.

The two factions, he said, share a commitment to a “white-centered” hierarchical cultural system, as well as (as one might expect) a fierce hostility to the left wing. They differ in their degrees of inclusion: the white nationalists strive for a “white ethno-state” that formalizes white supremacy and is “driven by open anti-semitism”, he said; the populists are more inclusive to people of color, Jews, and gay men.

Spencer traced the “huge growth” of the far-right to Trump’s candidacy, marked by his early abrasive comments on Mexican immigrants. Those and similar talking points got the attention of white nationalists, who in 2016 saw their biggest wave of popularity since the Real fuel, said Spencer, was the Alt-right movement, with its younger members and new ways of sending the same messages. In this case, the white nationalists and populists started to network and bring in factions closer to the “center” (though they were by no means “centerist”). When Trump was able to tap into the sentiments those groups were expressing, they became the base of the Republican party, with some backlash against mainstream Republicans that continues today.

After the tragedy-marked 2017 “Unite the Right” event in Charlottesville, VA, the white nationalists were marginalized by Republicans, but groups like the Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer remained “legitimate”, despite their violent tendencies. Their alliances with Trump were “behind the scenes”, and through Trump associates like Roger Stone. With the COVID pandemic the street violence abated, but then resumed – partly because of the pandemic – as “re-open rallies” in the Midwest gave militia groups and other far-right factions a cause to rally around. At this point the “Q-anon” conspiracies re-emerged as well. The killing of George Floyd led to the proliferation of Black Lives Matter marches and rallies, which at first displaced the far-right actions, but the right regrouped in smaller towns to “counter-demonstrate” against BLM. Spencer noted a degree of collaboration between the police and the far-right groups.

At the time of his talk, he also pointed out that Trump was reaching out pretty much to his base, populated by the far-right. The strategy included targeting “Antifa” – falsely connecting it to BLM and to (for instance) “Marxists”, as well as an implicit nod to the Proud Boys (“…stand back and stand by”). Trump was also then calling on his base to look out for election-day fraud and be “poll-watchers”. This was an election-day scenario that took place minimally, when at all.

Spencer discussed other post-election scenarios should Biden win (as he did): As part of a “coup”, Trump would try to overturn the election in the courts or in statehouses (proven totally unsuccessful), or refuse to leave the White House, which is a story yet to play out until January 20. There is also the chance of post-election violence, which has so far been minimal but is still possible if violent groups decide the electoral process “failed them” and turn to terrorist tactics. Finally, Spencer invoked but also minimized the idea of a “civil war” if Trump refuses to step down, reasoning that “the U.S.
hasn’t reached this level of polarization”, and that civil wars take a while to foment when there is no alternative political option to accompany them.

Nonetheless, Spencer suggested that people prepare for how to respond to actions by the far-right. To that end, he offered his new short book, “40 Ways to Fight Fascists” (none in the physical sense of “fighting”). Available for free by going to his web site (see below), the publication suggests learning about the far-right, tactics such as counter-messaging and reasoning with far-right recruits (as well as supporting their resistance to being recruited), fundraising against them, and supporting hate-crime victims. The details of these suggestions should prove to be an effective guide to prevailing, and a counterweight to being intimidated.

Ron Zucker
www.spencersunshine.com/2020/08/27/fortyways/

Summary of December 13 Film Event
“The Third Harmony” – About Nonviolence and Change

For a 2020 holiday season in need of a positive bent, PASMC presented a new documentary film, “The Third Harmony – Nonviolence and the New Story of Human Nature”. Using personal stories, interviews with scholars and activists, scenes from history and modern events, a little simple animation and some graphs, the film combines a call to action with constructive nonviolent approaches, some historical context about the importance of those methods, and the rationale for them. A viewer might be either enlightened or reminded of the power of nonviolence, depending on their outlook when the film began.

The basis for the title was actually introduced well into the film by its producer, UC Professor Michael Nagler, for whom a spiritual teacher had suggested our own harmony with 1) our environment, 2) other people and 3) ourselves. Nagler and other nonviolent activists add to that concept the notion that people are not – as opposed to what is widely accepted – predisposed to violence, but rather are more capable of cooperation and solving problems together. “Every disaster proves that” says one activist. There is also a nod to the psychology of nonviolence, in which seeing how others react in situations with nonviolence instead of violence might lead to a new way for the human brain to react.

The film shows images of people around the world trying to bring about change to various situations: Images of the Civil Rights Movement are matched with those of Black Lives Matter marches. Women march and rally for self-determination in places like Sudan and Western Sahara. People lie down and have chalk outlines drawn around them at the gates of the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. Nagler recalls his realization that better tactics, in the pursuit of nonviolence, were necessary in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing.

To that end the film invokes thoughts and attitudes about being nonviolent, such as having faith in humanity and people’s transformation, as well as looking, through reconciliation, for all sides to “win”. Such ideas are illustrated by a Palestinian peace activist describing a group (that includes him) of Palestinians and Israelis who have lost loved ones in the Israel/Palestine conflict, coming together for reconciliation. Similarly, there is a ceremony in which white Americans express a sincere and moving apology to a Sioux tribe whose land has been exploited for its oil resources.

The film uses actual statistics and findings to make its case. Erica Chenoweth, a professor of Human Rights and International Affairs, discusses making it her life’s work.
to study “the comparative effectiveness” of methods of struggle through history. She found (among other conclusions) nonviolent campaigns to be 10 times more likely to bring about a positive democratic change than violent campaigns – 4 times more likely even if the campaigns fail at the time. In addition, a nonviolent campaign, contrary to what is widely believed, takes an average of 3 years to achieve its desired results, as opposed to an average of 9-10 years for one that is violent. The film captures the challenges but also the rewards of nonviolent behavior. Veteran activist Ken Butigan recalls avoiding having his wrist broken in front of the Livermore Lab by telling his badge-wearing aggressor, “You don’t have to do that” and evoking a sense of relief from the officer. David Hartsough of Peaceworkers tells a story he has told often about being threatened with a knife during a sit-in at a Virginia lunch counter in the 1960s and neutralizing his would-be attacker with an simple offer of love. And we witness the unfolding events as members of Nonviolent Peaceforce workers lead peasants to safety amid threatening repression in South Sudan.

But “The Third Harmony” ultimately asserts that such actions, based on what Rep. Pramila Jayapal calls the “big bold ideas” of Martin Luther King, Sojourner Truth and Gandhi, are important in their undertaking and worth the effort if carried out in a nonviolent way. With the clock ticking on our planet from an environmental, peace and human-rights standpoint, says a nonviolence trainer near the film’s end, “What are we waiting for?”

Ron Zucker
www.thirdharmony.org

National
Congressional Progressive Caucus Unveils “The People’s Agenda: A Progressive Roadmap for Congress in 2021”

On December 21, the Congressional Progressive Caucus held a virtual event unveiling a bold Congressional agenda for the first six months of 2021 to deliver relief to the American people and govern with the urgency and vision that this moment requires.

The event unveiling “The People’s Agenda: A Progressive Roadmap for Congress in 2021” featured remarks from Congressional Progressive Caucus Chair Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), Reverend Dr. William J Barber II, and Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis, along with testimony from members of Congress, movement leaders, and members of the public demanding progress.

The People’s Agenda has been endorsed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus and 37 outside organizations.

The seven planks outlined in The People’s Agenda are:

• Provide COVID Relief that Meets the Scale of the Crisis and Addresses the Disproportionate Harm to Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Other Vulnerable Communities
• Put People Back to Work, Give Workers More Power, and Transform to a Clean Renewable Energy Economy.
• Ensure Health Care for Everyone
• Defend and Expand Voting Rights, Strengthen Democracy and End Corruption
• Dismantle Racism, White Supremacy and Inequality in All Institutions
• End endless Wars and Invest in Diplomacy and Peace
• End Corporate Greed and Corporate Monopolies

“The People’s Agenda is the culmination of months of works to identify our shared progressive priorities for the start of the new Congress. As we heard tonight, people across this nation are organizing and working for change – and at the Progressive Caucus, we stand ready to be their voice and their champion in the halls of Congress,” said CPC Chair, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

“Congress must govern with the urgency that this moment requires and restore power to the hands of the people. The People’s Agenda unveiled tonight is a promise to the American people that we will fight for them and deliver transformative and bold policy change in the new year.

“We see this launch of the People’s Agenda as a huge first step towards healing the nation. The Poor People’s Campaign is proud to have helped shape these priorities extensively, including the policy recommendations of poor and impacted leaders, economists, public health experts, researchers and faith leaders put forward in our Moral Agenda, Moral Budget, Jubilee Platform and 14 Policy Priorities for the First 100 Days,” said Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and President of Repairers of the Breach. “We are encouraged by the commitment of the Congressional Progressive Caucus to moral policy that lifts from the bottom. The price of inequality is too high and the deaths from unjust policies are too many to not address. The only way to heal the nation and have domestic tranquility is to first establish justice. This agenda sets us on the path towards doing just that.”

“The People’s Agenda centers many of the needs and demands of the 140 million people who were already poor or one storm, fire, health care crisis, job loss or other emergency from economic ruin, the 700 people who were dying each day from poverty and inequality before
the pandemic, and those who have been most impacted by the public health crisis and economic recession as well as the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy,” said Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign and Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary. “This is why the Poor People’s Campaign is endorsing these progressive and nonpartisan priorities, which we have helped to shape and inform. And we will push lawmakers in the House and the Senate from both sides of the aisle to enact these legislative priorities now, because lives depend on it.”

Support Kings Bay Plowshares Activists in prison
On April 4, 2018, seven Catholic Plowshares activists entered Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in St. Mary’s, Georgia, with the intention to, as a biblical passage suggests, “beat swords into plowshares”.

They chose to act on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who devoted his life to addressing what he called the “triple evils of militarism, racism, and materialism.” Carrying hammers and baby bottles of their own blood, the seven attempted to convert weapons of mass destruction. They hoped to call attention to the ways in which nuclear weapons kill every day, by their mere existence and maintenance.

Since 1979, Kings Bay Naval base has been the Navy’s Atlantic Ocean Trident port. It is the largest nuclear submarine base in the world. There are six ballistic missile subs and two guided missile subs based at Kings Bay.

The activists split up and went to three sites on the base: The administration building, the D5 Missile monument installation and the nuclear weapons storage bunkers. They used crime scene tape and hammers, and hung banners reading: “The ultimate logic of racism is genocide. -Dr. Martin Luther King”, “The ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide”, and “Nuclear weapons: illegal/immoral.”

All seven were arrested and, in a trial in October 2019, convicted on a variety of charges. After more than a year of waiting, two of them, Carmen Trotta and Martha Hennessy, began their sentences on Monday, December 14 of this year, at two different Federal Correctional Institutions. The other five will be incarcerated in January.

A Dose of Reality
Well, we need to go and share our bottles of Serotonin now. Yes, we might try to help all of our Trump-voting friends who will now be suffering from having their Fox News bubbles break and are faced with some undeniable realities: COVID is real and masks will help; human-induced climate change is happening as well. No amount of clutching at their loaded firearms and flags can be of help any longer.

I think we Biden voters were feeling a small dose of this depression on election night but then were relieved after the full vote count started to appear. So we need to follow Biden’s advice and reach out and help our poor buddies. Then we can get the nation back on a rational track and brace ourselves to work on real issues – not the magical thinking that stood in for Trump's make-believe. Let’s all pitch in with this.

Mike Caggiano

Action Alert
Congress’ Correct Role in War
With a new Congress taking its collective seat the first week in January and a new President entering the Oval Office on January 20, there are no new bills to co-sponsor, but there is plenty of anticipation about bills soon to be introduced – or reintroduced. Among them will most likely be a new one dealing with the Authorization for the Use of Military Force. It is our hope that Congress will endeavor to stick to the U.S. Constitution and repeal the law that, since 2001, has given such war-making authority to the President.

President Joe Biden will inherit U.S.-involved conflicts in the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, whether it involves boots on the ground or fighter planes and drone warfare in the air. He has suggested a preference for replacing, rather than revoking, the AUMF; his plan is for limited Congressional authority to authorize a war, with the White House also getting a say in the matter. The notion of an “endless war” at a president’s whim would then remain a possibility.

But there is growing bipartisan support in the current Congress to repeal the AUMF. Whether from Democrats tired of such endless wars or Republicans who don’t
want to leave the power to make war to a Democratic President, this is an opportunity to take advantage of that sentiment and put a roadblock in the way of any president’s perceived ability to stir things up militarily.

**Action:** Contact Rep. Jackie Speier or Anna Eshoo, or whomever represents you, and tell them 2021 should be the year Congress repeals the AUMF and takes back its Constitutional authority to declare war. Contact Sen. Dianne Feinstein and (when he takes office) Alex Padilla, with the same message. Suggest that the new (or “new again”) way of approaching this very weighty subject will be a proper alternative to the present system, regardless of which political party is in the White House.

**Toward Peace With Iran**

There is a lot of “scrubbing” of Donald Trump’s effects on America ahead for Biden, and in the 3rd full week of January, that can begin to happen. For one thing, Biden has expressed a willingness to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, aka the Iran Nuclear Agreement — meant to ensure that Iran’s nuclear program remains peaceful in exchange for a lifting of sanctions by the U.S. and the rest of the world.

The Trump administration’s actions with regard to Iran have increased tensions on seemingly a constant basis — between abandoning the nuclear deal, threatening war, assassinating an Iranian military leader and ramping up sanctions. The latter tactic, with its collective punishment, has also created COVID- and economic-related hardships for the Iranian people, the result of which could be a more hard-line and anti-American government following Iran’s June 2021 elections.

The present Iranian government has also shown an openness to returning to the agreement, the terms by which they were essentially abiding before Trump pulled out. Thus Biden can show good faith and lower the temperature among the two countries (and the others involved) by offering to also resume it. After four years of Trump, that process is sure to be complicated…but diplomacy is a far better look than antagonism.

**Action:** On or about the 21st of January, contact President Joe Biden and tell him to keep his campaign promise of returning the U.S. to the Iran nuclear deal — as well as ease the sanctions on Iran. Add that the agreement was working previously, and that the sanctions are, as is always the case, affecting the people of Iran the worst.

**Saving Yemen**

Another encouraging word from Biden is his statement of support for ending U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen. That can be as simple as ordering a stop to the flow of our fighter planes and weapons to the Saudis who are waging this deadly offensive. The result of the war has been arguably the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, in which Yemenis are being killed by bombs (from Saudi planes sometimes fueled in mid-air by U.S. planes) and starved by blockade-induced famines. Here again the pandemic has made life that much worse for the population.

Congress in 2020 moved to cut off funds for our role in Yemen with a War Powers resolution, which was vetoed by Trump. We would hope for a different result from Biden, and there is good reason to anticipate another War Powers resolution. But we would prefer he wasted no time and stopped the lethal aid to Saudi Arabia with a stroke of his pen. Without such aid, the war would surely end sooner.

**Action:** Contact Biden after January 20th and also tell him to end the U.S. role in the war on Yemen — as close to Day #1 of his presidency as possible. We can also contact Rep. Speier or Eshoo, as well as Senators Feinstein and Padilla, and tell them to get on the same page by co-sponsoring a War Powers Resolution to stop U.S. funding of this deadly, debilitating and cruel war.

**Ron Zucker**

**Directory**

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**Rep. Nancy Pelosi D-CA - Speaker of the House**
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**President Joe Biden (as of January 20)**
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Find out who your Representative is:  www.house.gov
If you are not in California, identify your senators here: www.senate.gov

The **Update** is published quarterly by Peace Action of San Mateo County. We welcome all submissions and letters, and reserve the right to exclude or edit for content and other considerations. The views expressed within are not necessarily those of the members of Peace Action of San Mateo County or Peace Action.
Peace Action of San Mateo County presents
San Francisco journalist and educator
Roberto Lovato
Discussing and reading from his book
"Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs and Revolution in the Americas"
About his Salvadoran heritage and coming of age in San Francisco
Sunday, January 17, 7 PM on Zoom
For information on how to join the meeting, email smpa@sanmateopeaceaction.org