



# Paradise Center for Tolerance and Nonviolence

PCTN's mission is to promote respect for differences and human rights, foster alternatives to violence, and advocate for a safe, hospitable, and harmonious community for all.

Vol. III, Issue 3, December 2008

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## WELCOME

*Click, Call or Visit Today!*  
You are always welcome at PCTN.

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**PCTN**  
**Paradise Center for**  
**Tolerance and Nonviolence**

6023 Skyway  
Paradise CA 95969-4959  
(530) 877-1856 Telephone  
(530) 877-1822 FAX  
[pctn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pctn@sbcglobal.net) Email

Visit our website at:  
[www.pctn.org](http://www.pctn.org)

## MEETINGS

Regular meetings of PCTN  
are open to the public.

*Call 877-1856 for the schedule.*

## NO on Prop 8 RALLY

On October 27, 2008, PCTN staged a rally supporting **NO on Prop 8**. With very little notice, 30 people showed up at the corners of Skyway and Pearson to hold signs and stand up for equal rights. Over 300 people in passing cars showed their support with honking and thumbs up.

PCTN supported **NO on Prop 8**, the California ballot initiative that takes away the right of same-sex couples to marry in California. We agree with the League of Women Voters in saying: *Proposition 8 is a threat to our basic constitutional rights. No person or group should suffer discrimination. Equal protection under the law is the foundation of American society. Regardless of your personal feelings about marriage for gay and lesbian couples, it is wrong to use the ballot box to change fundamental rights and freedoms.*

The rally was particularly important in light of the unprecedented actions of the Board of Trustees of the Paradise Unified School District. At its October 21, 2008 meeting, the Board approved a resolution warning parents about the potential impact on our local schools' curriculums if Proposition 8 was defeated.

We urged the Trustees to take no action on this resolution because as an elected body, it is the Board's responsibility to represent the entire district, not a resolution proposed by people promoting their religious beliefs. We see this primarily as an issue outside of the purview of the Board by which they set an improper and precarious precedent.

Our rebuttal to the School Board's resolution was the subject of a subsequent letter to the Paradise Post that was published on November 8, 2008. Sue Bordelon cited research into the Educational Code, proving the faulty premise of the Board's action, and



Some of those who rallied for **Vote NO on Prop 8**, October 27, 2008.

by association, the error of the Paradise Post's endorsement of the Board's action. Our letter, as well as an explanation of our position on Prop 8, may be found on our website at [www.pctn.org](http://www.pctn.org) under **NO on Prop 8**.

Unfortunately, on November 4, Prop 8 passed, 52% to 48%. PCTN will continue to stand up for equal rights and against discrimination. Obviously this is not the end of the discussion.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

You can now make a credit card donation, either one-time or recurring monthly. Just go to our website and click on Make a Donation. You'll be linked to the secure PayPal site.

## HOLIDAY Shopping on Amazon?

If you use the link on the PCTN website to get to [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), PCTN will receive a percentage of your purchase and you will receive PCTN's everlasting gratitude. It's EASY! Just add [www.pctn.org/donate.shtml/](http://www.pctn.org/donate.shtml/) to your Favorites, then click on the Amazon link any time you are shopping online. It's just one more way to help PCTN help others.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Karen Trivers  
Jessica Wood

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## PCTN STAFF:

Sue Bordelon, Director  
Jamie Crowe, STARS  
Melissa Dalzell, STARS

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## NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Sue Bordelon  
Rita Locke  
Gwen Nordgren

# COMMUNITY FORUM: "Stories from Palestine"

On Sunday, November 16, 2008, PCTN welcomed back Wendy Hartley, resident of Paradise from 1984 to 2006, a founding member of PCTN, and our dedicated and spirited Board President for many years.

It was a privilege for PCTN to sponsor this timely and unique program in which Wendy shed light and understanding about the human side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on her experience as a member of the Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories May 25–June 7, 2008.

During her visit to the Middle East Wendy had the opportunity to see and experience life as it is, not as it is typically depicted by

American media. She met with Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers, ordinary citizens trying to achieve peace with justice in this region torn by war for 60 years.

This unique and provocative program included both a dramatic reading of Wendy's personal essays that transported the listener to share the drama, pathos and inspiration radiating from dedicated heroes of nonviolence, and the showing of a new documentary film, "Jerusalem: the East Side Story," by acclaimed filmmaker Mohammed Alatar.

This newsletter went to the printer before an article could be written describing reactions of the audience and details of the discussion period, so look for that in our next edition.

## TJ LEYDEN FORUM: POSTPONED & WHY

"Turning Away from Hate," with speaker TJ Leyden, has regrettably been postponed. We told you about this PCTN-sponsored forum in our September newsletter.

As the cornerstone of the program, PCTN had planned assembly programs for students at Ridgeview and Paradise High Schools. To our dismay and disappointment, the Paradise Unified School District reversed its original commitment, choosing to do a classroom-based program instead.

We are sorry to disappoint those of you who were looking forward to hearing this dynamic and moving speaker who turned away from his active leadership in the White Power, neo-Nazi movement to embrace tolerance and hope, and to become powerfully engaged in combating hate and prejudice.

This experience has not diminished PCTN's keen interest in the value of TJ Leyden's story and the potential for touching our students and informing our community. The White Power movement is active on the Ridge.



WP on a wall in Paradise.

There is general acknowledgement of this by school officials and both the Paradise Police Department and Sheriff's Deputies.

PCTN reported on several related incidents in the enclosed 2009 Membership Drive Letter. The picture above of White Power graffiti that was sprayed on a wall in Paradise is an example.

We believe bringing this topic into the public light is important for the whole community, especially our youth. So look for this Community Forum in 2009. We will keep you informed.

# ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY COMMEMORATION

**HOLD THE DATE: January 19, 2009,  
6:30 pm Candlelight Walk; 7:00 pm Program**

Mark your calendars for PCTN's 9th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration to be held on January 19th. The traditional candlelight walk will begin at 6:30 pm at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church on Oliver Road across the Skyway from Long's Drug Store. (Hopefully we won't have snow this year!)

The main program will start at 7 pm. If you have a musical or other appropriate talent and would like to participate in the program, please contact Event Coordinator Dan Johnson at 877-9983. As the event planning unfolds, details will be posted on PCTN's website at [www.pctn.org](http://www.pctn.org), and we'll send out flyers to everyone on our list.

## STARS PROGRAM REACHES MANY CHILDREN

Now in its fourth year the STARS (Safety, Tolerance and Respect Superstars) program is touching many children this semester. Youth who attend the Paradise Boys & Girls Club after-school "Clubhouse" program are offered the opportunity of selecting STARS as one of their weekly activities. About fifty children have taken part so far.

STARS leaders, Melissa Dalzell and Jamie Crowe, create a caring and trusting learning space for the kids to enjoy the activities. At the recent mid-session party, the children were treated to a STARS t-shirt which they had fun decorating and personalizing.

"*What it means to be a friend*" was a topic that led to a lively discussion that got kids thinking and coming up with many good ideas. A game called "*Sticks & Stones*" has each child write on pieces of paper all the hurtful words they know. Then they crumble up each word into a *stone* and toss it into a box, pledging never to use these words. The children really relate to this activity because they observe or experience name-calling in their daily lives.



The STARS kids are always excited to attend and often do not want to leave when the program is over. At a recent Boys & Girls Clubhouse Open House a parent visited the STARS table to say how much her child enjoys the program and how she is always talking about it and sharing the activities with other family members.

The children who participate in STARS have a great time playing games and having fun, but they are also learning important life lessons. A boy shared what he had learned about tolerance: "I learned that everyone is different...and that's okay because if we were all the same, that would be boring." Clearly, STARS has a positive impact on the children.

## Pass the Pasta for PCTN FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS



Volunteers Mike Pollard, Dan Cox, and Linda Riley

On behalf of PCTN, I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Pass the Pasta fundraiser on Sunday, October 12. Through the generosity of our dinner guests and many volunteers, PCTN raised \$1100, and the Thrivent for Lutherans group is donating an additional match of \$750. This outstanding support by the community of Paradise helps PCTN to continue promoting programs and forums that advocate alternatives to violence. Thank you one and all.

*Karen Trivers, Event Chairperson*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### PCTN BOARD PRESIDENT, GWEN NORDGREN

This August the Paradise Post announced the 50 most influential people in Paradise. We are proud to report that our president, Gwen Nordgren, was number "44" on that list. In September the Chico News and Review listed the "Best on the Ridge", and our Gwen was tied for second place in the category of *Volunteers in Paradise*.

Congratulations to Gwen and the wonderful work she is doing for the Paradise Center for Tolerance and Nonviolence. She is a tireless volunteer and guides PCTN members in their ongoing work to foster respect and dignity for all people.



**Paradise Center for  
Tolerance and Nonviolence**

6023 Skyway, Paradise CA 95969

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## 2009 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

On December 1, PCTN kicked off our annual Membership Drive (see enclosed letter). Being a member of PCTN means you stand up for equality and that you are part of our efforts to make the Ridge a hospitable community for all. Please make a donation today—you can use the enclosed envelope or use your credit card—just go to [www.pctn.org](http://www.pctn.org) and hit DONATE NOW.

If a smaller monthly donation is easier for you, that works for us too. We are actually promoting monthly pledges because they help so much with cash flow. Whatever and however you choose to give to PCTN, rest assured we appreciate your generosity and will make every penny count. Thank you!

Oh, one more thing—how about giving PCTN memberships to your family and friends as alternative Holiday Gifts.

**FREE GIFT MAGNET**  
*enclosed with your 2009  
Membership information*

*Fundraising Results are In*

## ANNIE B'S COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING DRIVE

PCTN was notified that we raised \$3,428 with the August Annie B's Fundraising Drive. The North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) added \$366 to our efforts, making the total amount raised \$3,794! We thank each and every donor for your generosity.

### Help PCTN with your Holiday Giving

#### PARADISE IS...

*a world where you don't have to buy your brother-in-law in Oregon  
one more Christmas present.*

#### PARADISE IS NOW.

Make your life easy and give a gift to PCTN to honor your mother, your brother, your long lost cousin, your child's teacher, or your employer.

*Send your gift to PCTN along with the name and address of the person you wish to honor. A handsome card will be sent to recognize your gift.*

**Bring PARADISE back into your life today!**



### Get PCTN News Online

PCTN's newsletter and list of events are available online. Visit our website:  
[www.pctn.org](http://www.pctn.org)