



The HOPE Coalition

Humboldt Organized for Peace & the Environment

"Working in partnership toward the development of a diverse, just, & sustainable community."

Calendar of Happenings in Humboldt County Inside

Newsletter Editorial Page – October 26, 2010

The Tea Party Movement: Deluded & Inspired by Billionaires

By funding numerous rightwing organizations, the mega-rich Koch brothers have duped millions into supporting big business
by George Monbiot

The Tea Party movement is remarkable in two respects. It is one of the biggest exercises in false consciousness the world has seen—and the biggest “Astroturf” operation in history. These accomplishments are closely related.

An “Astroturf” campaign is a fake grassroots movement: it purports to be a spontaneous uprising of concerned citizens, but in reality it is founded and funded by elite interests. Some Astroturf campaigns have no grassroots component at all. Others catalyze and direct real mobilizations. The Tea Party belongs in the second category. It is mostly composed of passionate, well-meaning people who think they are fighting elite power, unaware that they have been organized by the very interests they believe they are confronting. We now have powerful evidence that the movement was established and has been guided with the help of money from billionaires and big business. Much of this money, as well as much of the strategy and staffing, were provided by two brothers who run what they call “the biggest company you’ve never heard of.”

Charles and David Koch own 84% of Koch Industries, the second-largest private company in the United States. It runs oil refineries, coal suppliers, chemical plants, and logging firms, and turns over roughly \$100 billion a year; the brothers are each worth \$21 billion. The company has had to pay tens of millions of dollars in fines and settlements for oil and chemical spills and other industrial accidents. The Kochs want to pay less tax, keep more profits and be restrained by less regulation. Their challenge has been to persuade the people harmed by this agenda that it’s good for them.

In July 2010, David Koch told *New York* magazine: “I’ve never been to a Tea Party event. No one representing the Tea Party has ever even approached me.” But a fascinating new film—(Astro)Turf Wars, by Taki Oldham—tells a fuller story. Oldham infiltrated some of the movement’s key organizing events, including the 2009 Defending the American Dream summit, convened by a group called Americans for Prosperity (AFP). The film shows David Koch addressing the summit. “Five years ago,” he explains, “my brother Charles and I provided the funds to start Americans for Prosperity. It’s beyond my wildest dreams how AFP has grown into this enormous organization.”

A convener tells the crowd how AFP mobilized opposition to Barack Obama’s healthcare reforms. “We hit the button and we started doing the Twittering and Facebook and the phone calls and the emails, and you turned up!” Then a series of AFP organizers tell Mr. Koch how they have set up dozens of Tea Party events in their home states. He nods and beams from the podium like a chief executive receiving rosy reports from his regional sales directors. Afterwards, the delegates crowd into AFP workshops, where they are told how to run further Tea Party events.

Americans for Prosperity is one of several groups set up by the Kochs to promote their politics. We know their foundations have given it at least \$5 million, but few such records are in the public domain and the total could be much higher. It has toured the country organizing rallies against healthcare reform and the Democrats’ attempts to tackle climate change. It provided the key organizing tools that set the Tea Party running.

The movement began when CNBC’s Rick Santelli called from the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for a bankers’ revolt against the undeserving poor. (He proposed that the traders should hold a tea party to dump derivative securities in Lake Michigan to prevent Obama’s plan to “subsidize the losers:” by which he meant people whose mortgages had fallen into arrears.) On the same day, Americans for Prosperity set up a Tea Party Facebook page and started organizing Tea Party events.

Oldham’s film shows how AFP crafted the movement’s messages and drafted its talking points. *The New Yorker* magazine, in the course of a remarkable exposure of the Koch brothers’ funding networks, interviewed some of their former consultants. “The Koch brothers gave the money that founded [the Tea Party],” one of them explained. “It’s like they put the seeds in the ground. Then the rainstorm comes, and the frogs come out of the mud—and they’re our candidates!” Another observed that the Kochs are smart. “This right wing, redneck stuff works for them. They see this as a way to get things done without getting dirty themselves.”

AFP is one of several groups established by the Koch brothers. They set up the Cato Institute, the first free-market think-tank in the United States. They also founded the Mercatus Centre at George Mason University, which now fills the role once played by the economics department at Chicago University as the originator of extreme neoliberal ideas. Fourteen of the 23 regulations that George W Bush put on his hit list were, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, first suggested by academics working at the Mercatus Centre.

[continued on Page 4]

[All opinions in editorials, action items, & calendar items are those of the writers, submitters, and involved organizations; and not necessarily the opinions of the HOPE Coalition or its volunteers. HOPE will consider rebuttal editorials from the progressive viewpoint.]

ENTERTAINMENT, CELEBRATIONS, & CULTURE

- Friday, October 29: HSU Music Dept. Humboldt Composers Free Concert.** Music composition students premiere their latest work. 8 pm in the Fulkerson Recital Hall, HSU. Free. Info: 826-3456.
- Friday - Sunday, October 29 - 31: "The Great American Tea Party,"** a time capsule performance of the last two years in American government, culture and lifestyle. This all-original comedy, developed by graduates of Dell'Arte, summarizes the undeniable and sweeping consequences of our seemingly endless nationwide recession. 7:30 pm at the Arcata Playhouse. \$7, \$5 advance. Info: 822-1575.
- Saturday, October 30: HSU Music Dept. Humboldt Symphony.** Family Halloween concert features "Night on Bald Mountain" and other musical treats, with an extra-musical trick. 8 pm in the Fulkerson Recital Hall, HSU. \$7, \$3. Info: 826-3456.
- Thursday, November 4: First Thursday Film Series: "Deep Down,"** a documentary from the heart of coal country about who controls, consumes and benefits from our planet's shrinking supply of natural resources. Free admission. 6 - 7:30 pm at the Morris Graves Museum, 636 F St., Eureka. Info: 442-0278 or www.humboldtarts.org.
- Friday, November 5: 8th Annual Dia de los Muertos Community Celebration,** featuring music, storytelling, traditional craft activities and more. Bring a picture, story or memento of a loved one to place on the community altar. Traditional foods will be available. 6 - 8 pm at the Adorni Center. Free. Info: 442-3320.
- Friday, November 5: Fire in the Belly: An Evening of Stories of Redwood Coast Entrepreneurs.** Featured storytellers will be Barbara Browning, Joe Mark. Kit Mann, Don Banducci and Kevin Hoover. 7 pm at the Arcata Playhouse. \$5. Info: stories@fromthefire.org.
- Friday, November 5: Eureka Chamber Music Series: the Parker String Quartet,** winners of several international string quartet competitions. 7:30 pm at the Cavalry Lutheran Church, 716 South Ave, Eureka. \$30. Info: 445-9650.
- Friday, November 5: EPIC's 33rd Annual Membership Meeting, Dinner and Celebration** at the Mateel in Redway. Auction, awards and Asian Fusion dinner at 7 pm. Live music by the Berel Alexander Ensemble at 9 pm. \$35 for dinner and music. \$15 for music only. Info: 822-7711 or wildcalifornia.org.
- Saturday, November 6: Jacoby Creek Land Trust's "Awesome Autumn Feast,"** featuring local free-range turkey, prepared by 10 local restaurants in 10 different ways, along with side dishes. Wine, beer, and after-dinner drinks available. 6 pm at the Bayside Grange. Info: 822-1642.
- Saturday, November 6: Arcata Interfaith Gospel Choir's Annual Harvest Concert** with special guest Joel Armin-Hoiland. There will be some audience participation singing. Refreshments will be served. 7 pm at the Arcata Presbyterian Church, 11th and G St., Arcata. \$10, \$8. Info: 822-4444.
- Sunday, November 7: Daylight Savings Ends.** Set your clocks back one hour.
- Sunday, November 7: Grand Celebration Concert in honor of HUUF's new piano!** Felicia Oldfather on piano, Virginia Ryder on clarinet and David Davis on cello. 7 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship in Bayside. \$10 adults, under 18 free. Info: 822-3793.
- Monday, November 8: Open Mike at Poets on the Plaza.** Original poetry, 5-minute time limit, no music. All ages. \$1 donation. 8 pm, sign-up 7:30 pm at the Plaza Grill View Room, 2nd Floor at the Jacoby Storehouse in Arcata.
- Saturday, November 13: Northwest Intertribal Gathering and Elders Dinner** featuring tribal dance demonstrations, salmon and turkey dinner, elders' honoring ceremony, Indian arts and crafts, fry bread and tacos. Gates open: 10 am - 6 pm; dinner: noon - 4 pm (or until it's gone) at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, 3750 Harris St. Eureka. Free admission. Dinner - \$6, \$3, over 55 free. Info: 445-8451 or www.ncidc.com.
- Saturday, November 13: Arcata House Benefit with the Joyce Hough Band.** Doors open at 7:30 pm at the Arcata Theater Lounge, music at 8 pm. Suggested donation is \$20 or two for \$35. Info: 822-4528.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & ALL AGES

- HSU Natural History Museum Re-opens!** The museum is now open to the general public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm. Info: 826-4479.
- Friday, October 29: HUUF Halloween Festival.** Join the King and Queen of Halloween for a non-scary celebration, with fairy-tale skits and warm refreshments. 5 - 8 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship in Bayside. Advance tickets required. Tickets available at the Garden Gate, Arcata. \$5. Info: 822-3793 or 444-2598.
- Sunday, October 31: Ma-le'l Dunes Spooky Skeleton Forest Tour.** Wear your costume and bring your trick-or-treat bag for an all ages, fun family-friendly event with fun, not-too-scary, environmental education activities. Be prepared for walking on a trail up and down in the sand to the spooky skeleton forest. Tours will begin at 10 am, 11 am and noon. Bring water and snacks. Limited space is available. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 444-1397.
- Sunday, October 31: Boo at the Zoo!** Games, crafts, guided animal encounters, treats for humans and zoo residents. 10 am - 2 pm at the Sequoia Park Zoo. Free with zoo admission. Costumes encouraged. Info: 442-5649 or www.sequoiaparkzoo.net.
- Saturday, November 6: KEET's Kids Club at the Morris Graves Museum of Art,** featuring short stories and art activities geared to youth 2 - 8 years old. Every family takes home a free book. November's book is "White Rabbit's Color Book." Free. Noon to 2 pm. Info: 442-0278.
- Saturday, November 13: Redwood Park Family Day.** Ropes Course activities, games, arts and crafts and more for ages 4 and up. Two sessions, 9 am - noon or 1 - 4 pm. \$10. Pre-registration required. Info: 822-7091 or www.cityofarcata.org/rec.

PROTECT THE EARTH & ITS LIVING CREATURES

Saturday, October 30: Arcata Bottoms Birding Excursion. Join leader Ken Burton for a half-day birding trip around the Arcata Bottoms. This outing will be mostly driving with a bit of walking. Bring lunch if you want to continue afternoon birding, perhaps on the Samoa Peninsula. Meet at the north end of the Arcata Marsh parking lot on South G Street at 8:30 am. Info: 825-1124.

Saturday, October 30: "Going to Seed: Late Fall Plants at the Arcata Marsh", a walk with naturalist Jenny Hanson on the paths of Arcata Marsh. Meet many common native and non-native species and see the results of their flowering. Meet at the Marsh Interpretive Center, 569 South G St. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Arcata Marsh and North Coast Chapter of California Native Plant Society. Info: 826-2359.

Sunday, November 7: Horse Mountain Day Hike, a 2 - 4 mile hike with grand vistas, diverse shrubs, and a study of seed pods. The group will test a proposed route for a trail in this area. If the day is too wintry at this 4,400-ft elevation, we will opt for someplace lower. It's a day to be outside with the plants! Meet at 8:30 am (Pacific Standard Time!) at Pacific Union School on Janes Rd. in Arcata. Bring lunch and water. Dress for the weather! Return late afternoon. Info or to tell Carol you are coming: 822-2015.

Saturdays, Ongoing: Redwood Region Audubon Society Free Public Field Trips at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Rain or shine, docent-led field trips. Meet with binoculars in the parking lot at the south end of I Street in Arcata at 8:30 am.

Saturdays, Ongoing: Friends of the Arcata Marsh Docent-Led Walks. A 90-minute, docent-led walk focusing on different topics of the marsh. 2 pm at the Interpretive Center on South G St. Info: 826-2359.

WORKSHOPS AND MISCELLANEOUS

Mondays and Wednesdays, Ongoing: Art for the Young at Heart, a low-cost opportunity for folks over 50 to express themselves creatively. Set up as an open studio with individualized instruction, participants can experiment in watercolor painting techniques, hand-built low-fire ceramics, silk painting and more. Some introductory supplies will be provided. 6 - 9 pm at Arcata Elementary School, room 7. Instructor: Maureen McGarry. Info: the Ink People at 442-8413.

Saturday, November 6: Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Maximum load limits for residents are 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste. The cost for disposal is a flat fee of \$5. 9 am - 2 pm at the Hawthorne Street Transfer Station, 1059 W. Hawthorne Street, Eureka. Info: 441-2005.

MEETINGS

Thursday, November 5: Humboldt County Human Rights Commission at 5 pm in Conference Room A in the County Courthouse. Anyone with interest in or concerns about human rights in Humboldt County is encouraged to attend. Members of the public are invited. Info: 668-4095.

ELECTION INFO

Tuesday, November 2: VOTE! See our voter guide at www.hopecoalition.org.

TALK SHOWS, COMMENTARY, & MEDIA SPECIALS

"Thursday Night Talk" hosted by David Cobb of Democracy Unlimited airs every Thursday 7:30 - 8:30 pm on KHSU FM 90.5. It is a live call-in show, so it's a great way to have your opinion heard by thousands of listeners. The studio line is 826-4805.

"Conversation with Paul Mann," a new public affairs program covering national and international issues with local guests and callers. Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 on KHSU FM 90.5. Studio line: 826-4805.



HOPE Coalition Newsletter & Calendar, Oct. 26, 2010 **Page 4**
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Editorial: Page 1, **Calendar:** Pages 2 - 3, **Action Item:** this page.

Newsletter, **Oct. 26, '10.** Vol. 16, Number 17. Published semi-monthly on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; **next Nov. 9, '10.** For calendar items PO Box 385, Arcata 95518 or e-mail to hopecoalition@igc.org. **Next deadline. Nov. 4, '10.** Write or e-mail for sample newsletter. Newsletter volunteers: Dave Keniston, Mara Segal, Mayer Segal, Michael Welch, Paloma Orinoco. Web site: www.hopecoalition.org.

See www.hopecoalition.org for our fall election Voter Guide

Tea Party Funding article by Monbiot—continued from page 1

The Kochs have lavished money on more than 30 other advocacy groups, including the Heritage Foundation, the Manhattan Institute, the George C Marshall Institute, the Reason Foundation, and the American Enterprise Institute. These bodies have been instrumental in turning politicians away from environmental laws, social spending, taxing the rich, and distributing wealth. They have shaped the widespread demand for small government. The Kochs ensure that their money works for them. "If we're going to give a lot of money," David Koch explained to a libertarian journalist, "we'll make darn sure they spend it in a way that goes along with our intent. And if they make a wrong turn and start doing things we don't agree with, we withdraw funding."

Most of these bodies call themselves "free-market think tanks," but their trick—as (Astro)Turf Wars points out—is to conflate crony capitalism with free enterprise, and free enterprise with personal liberty. Between them they have constructed the philosophy that informs the Tea Party movement: its members mobilize for freedom, unaware that the freedom they demand is freedom for corporations to trample them into the dirt. The think tanks that the Kochs have funded devise the game and the rules by which it is played; Americans for Prosperity coaches and motivates the team.

Astroturfing is now taking off in the United Kingdom. Earlier this month Spinwatch showed how a fake grassroots group set up by health insurers helped shape the Tories' NHS reforms. Billionaires and corporations are capturing the political process everywhere; anyone with an interest in democracy should be thinking about how to resist them. Nothing is real any more. Nothing is as it seems.

[A fully referenced version of this story can be found at www.monbiot.com.]

--- HOPE Coalition Needs Your Support ---

The Objective of the HOPE Coalition:

To synthesize & promote the individual visions of the organizations that make up Humboldt's environmentally & socially just community. These include, but are not limited to, the following organizations: Environmental, Social Justice, Peace, Labor, & Human Service.

Yes, I would like to help support the HOPE Coalition's newsletter and other efforts:

- \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$500 \$15 \$_____ other

Make checks to payable to: HOPE Coalition.

I wish to receive newsletter by

- US mail Email Both

Name _____

Address _____

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The HOPE Coalition • PO Box 385 Arcata, CA 95518 • hopecoalition@igc.org • www.hopecoalition.org

The HOPE Coalition Newsletter is available in Arcata at: the Co-op, & the Northcoast Environmental Center; at the main Humboldt, Arcata, McKinleyville, and Trinidad libraries; and at the Senior Center in Eureka.

HOPE Coalition Newsletter Insert—this insert contains regularly scheduled events. For special happenings and one-time events, see the regular calendar that follows the page one editorial.

PEACE NEWS

Peace Vigils Fridays 5 - 6 pm on the Arcata Plaza. Mondays at 4 pm at the Courthouse in Eureka, 445-5100 ext. 215, ask for Jack.
Vets for Peace Silent Vigil; Fridays, 5 - 6 pm: SW corner Arcata Plaza.
Vets for Peace, Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 meets 1st Thurs. at 7 pm: at the Arcata Marsh Commons. Info: 826-7124.
Women in Black stand in silent vigil every **Friday 5 - 6 pm** at the **Arcata Plaza**, 8th & G, at the **Humboldt County Courthouse** (also Saturdays at noon), the **McKinleyville Shopping Center** on the grassy area out front, and **Fridays 4 - 5 pm** in **Trinidad** at the intersection of Scenic Dr. and Main St.

TALK SHOWS, WORKSHOPS & COMMENTARY

Access Humboldt: Public, education & government media access. Cable channels 8, 10, 11 & 12. For program schedule, submission policies, and program request forms go to www.accesshumboldt.net. Call or email for further info. 476-1798 or info@accesshumboldt.net.
COMMENTARY on KEET TV Channel 13 445-8013: **Wide Angle** Tues. at 9 pm
NOW with David Brancaccio. Fri. at 8:30 pm:
COMMENTARY on KGOE 1480 am, 442-2000: **Thom Hartmann**, weekdays 9 am - noon.
Peter B. Collins, weekdays 3 - 6 pm. Progressive talk show from San Francisco.
COMMENTARY on KHSU, 90.5 fm, 826-6089. **Democracy Now!** with Amy Goodman: weekdays 9 - 10 am.
The Econews Report with Greg King. 1:30 pm Thursdays.
A World of Possibilities locally produced syndicated public affairs program. 1:30 pm Wednesdays. Info: 826-9111 ext. 18.
COMMENTARY on KMUD, 88.3 fm, 923-2513. **Counterspin**, Sunday 1 - 1:30 pm.
Alternative Radio, Mondays 9 am. Boulder-based award-winning weekly series with David Barsamian.
Animal Advocate, 2nd Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. Animal welfare issues. Info: Barbara Shultz at 986-7835, animaladvocate4@yahoo.com.
A World of Possibilities locally produced syndicated public affairs program. 9 am Tuesdays. Info: 826-9111 ext. 18.
Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman; noon, Mon. - Fri. Also 4 pm Access Humboldt Channel 12. Also 11 am on KIDE 91.3 fm. Also on Free Speech TV (FSTV) Mon. - Fri. midnight, 8 am, noon, or 7 pm.
Civil Liberties Monitoring Project Report; 1st Wednesday, 7 - 8 pm. 923-4646.
Politically Correct Week in Review, call-in radio show, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Mondays at 7 pm 923-3911.
All Things Reconsidered with Eric Kirk. 3rd Thursday at 7 pm.
Global Stuff call-in talk show with Jimmy Durchslag, last Friday, 7 - 8 pm.

PROTECT THE EARTH & ITS LIVING CREATURES

Adopt-the-Bay. Participate in a number of tasks aimed at maintaining a healthy Humboldt Bay. All welcome. Info: 443-0801.
Audubon Society Field Trips; Free field trips through the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary every Saturday at 8:30 am at the Klopp Lake parking lot (foot of I St. in Arcata). Bring your binoculars. Rain or shine. Info: 268-8052 or 822-3613.
Campus Center for Appropriate Technology; info: 826-3551.
Friends of the Dunes; Restoration workdays the first 3 Saturdays every month, 9 am - 1 pm. Info: 444-1397 or info@friendsofthedunes.org. Complete calendar: www.friendsofthedunes.org.
Friends of the Marsh guided interpretive walks every Saturday 2 pm at the Interpretive Center on South G St., Arcata. Info: 826-2359.
Redwood Alliance Climate Action Project. (Public meetings temporarily suspended until after the election.) Info: 822-6171, climatechange@redwoodalliance.org; www.redwoodalliance.org.
Wild Urban Gardeners! Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm, 1552 Spear Ave. in Arcata. Promoting food & native plant species, information about compost, greenhouses, seed banks, and community gardens. Info: 822-5861.

ARTS

Arcata Artisans Cooperative Gallery; H St. on the Plaza. Mon. - Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 12 - 5. Info: 825-9133, www.arcataartisans.com.
Arts Alive! Eureka; first Saturday of the month at venues around town. Art, music, dance, refreshments. Info: 442-9054.
Arts! Arcata; second Friday of the month at venues around town and at HSU. Art, music, dance, refreshments. Info: 822-4500.
Clarke Historical Museum; 240 E St., Eureka. Info: 443-1947 or www.clarkemuseum.org.
First Street Gallery; 422 First Street, Eureka. Tuesday - Sunday from noon - 5 pm. Info: 443-6363 or www.humboldt.edu/~first.
Morris Graves Museum; 636 F St., Eureka. Wed. - Sun. 12 - 5 pm. www.humboldtarts.org
The Ink People; 411 12th St, Eureka. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm. Info: 442-8413 www.inkpeople.org.
Westhaven Center for the Arts; 501 S. Westhaven Dr. Info: 677-0860, www.westhavenarts.org.

MEETINGS

Arcata's Committee on Democracy & Corporations meets the third Tuesday of each month and was established in response to Arcata's Measure F. Info: 822-5951 or www.cityofarcata.org.

Arcata's Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and Peace Commission. On indefinite hiatus due to lack of a quorum. Applications available at www.cityofarcata.org or at city hall. Info: 822-5951.

Commission on Status of Women meets 3d Tuesday at 6 pm. Call for place: 822-2502 or www.co.humboldt.ca.us/commissions/csw/.

Eureka Greens meet 3rd Saturday of every month. 3:30-5pm. 321 Coffee (321 Third St. in Old Town). Info: www.EurekaGreens.com.

Green Wheels; Mondays 6:30 pm at the Northcoast Environmental Center. Info: mail@green-wheels.org or www.green-wheels.org.

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission meets 2nd Tues. City Courthouse, Rm. B, Eureka, 6 pm. Info: 268-2548.

Humboldt Democratic Central Committee; 2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. 129 Fifth St. Info: 445-3366 or www.humboltdemocrats.org.

Humboldt Exchange Community Currency Project. Call for meetings: 269-0984.

Humboldt Watershed Council at NEC, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm. Info: sheds@humboldt1.com.

Mother Jones Club & Humboldt Communist Alliance. Call for meeting times: ncalview@igc.org or 839-3824.

NAACP; Monthly meetings: 3rd Sunday at 3:30 pm, Boys & Girls Club, 3015 J St., Eureka. Info: 268-8287.

North Coast IWW, the Wobblies meets every 3rd Wed. 6:30 - 8 pm at the Labor Temple, 840 E St., Eureka. Info: 725-8090.

Northern Humboldt Greens meet 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 - 8 pm. Info: Shaye, 237-2790 or email arcata@greens.org.

Redwood Chapter ACLU meets 3rd Tuesday at noon at 917 Third St. in Eureka. Blog at redwoodaclu.blogspot.com. Info: 215-5385.

Sequoia Greens of southern Humboldt. Call for meetings: 923-4488 or encimer@hotmail.com.

Veterans for Peace (SoHum Chapter); 1st Tuesday of Each Month at 7pm at Haynes Vets Hall, Garberville.

Vets for Peace (Humboldt Chapter 56); 550 Union St. Arcata in the Common Room (next door to Equinox) first Thursday of the month. Info: 826-7124.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); meets the last Monday, 7 - 9 pm at the Arcata Public Library, 500 7th St., Arcata. Info: Carol at 668-1901.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Arts in the Afternoon; a free art studio for teens (6th - 12th grade). Open week days during the school year, 3 - 6 pm at Arcata Community Center. Sponsored by City of Arcata's Recreation Division. Info: 825-2028.

HSU's Natural History Museum, 1315 G St. Arcata. Closed to public, available for classroom visits. Info: 826-4478.

Humboldt County Library in Eureka Story Hour: 10 am Fridays & other programs. Info: Jo Ann Bauer, 269-1900.

Humboldt County Teen Court is looking for teen volunteers. Info: 444-0153.

Mondays, Fridays, & Saturdays: PULSE, new Teen Recreation Center; regular programming from 6 - 9 pm at the John Ryan Youth Center, 1653 J St, Eureka. Info: 268-1858.

Raven Project Queer Coffee House for Youth; Tuesday, 6:30 - 9 pm. Also, girls & women 10 - 24 years meet Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 523 T St., Eureka, 443-7099.

COMMUNITY & WELL-BEING SERVICES

Buddhist Queers (lesbian, gay, bi, transsexual) Vipassana, Zen, etc. Beginners welcome. phone 269-7044.

Eureka Mindfulness Buddhist Meditation & Discussion. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. 7:15 pm First Christian Church 730 K St. Wheelchair accessible, fragrance free, beginners welcome. Info: 269-7044.

Fridays, Ongoing: Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance: Arcata Support Groups; free, voluntary, and open peer-support groups for those experiencing depression (seasonal, situational, or chronic) and/or mood swings. Open to the public. Family and friends are also welcome. 6 pm at the Arcata Library Conference Room. Info: 443-9659 or dbsahumb@sbcglobal.net.

Health Insurance and Advocacy Program (HICAP) provides objective information, help, and advocacy for people relying on Medicare. Info and appointments: 444-3000.

Healthy Kids Humboldt Enrollment Headquarters offers health care insurance by assisting with Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Cal Kids applications for children. 517 3rd Street, Eureka. 442.6066.

Humboldt Community Switchboard can direct anyone to services in Humboldt County. Info: 441-1001 or www.theswitchboard.org.

Humboldt Domestic Violence Services Support Groups; all services are free. Info & child care: 444-9255. 24-Hour Crisis Line: 443-6042 or toll free 866-668-6543.

Humboldt Literacy Project, to improve adult reading skills necessary to function on the job, in the family, & in the community. Free & confidential. Info: 445-3655 or www.humlit.org.

Nature-Based Spiritual Queers (GLBT) pagan, Native American traditions, etc. Newcomers welcome. phone 269-7044.

North Coast Rape Crisis Team; 24 hour crisis line: 445-2881. Business phone: 443-2737.

Ongoing: Drop-in Grief Support Groups. Hospice offers free, drop-in grief support groups in Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna and McKinleyville. These groups are open to anyone in the community experiencing grief and loss of a loved one. Info and schedules: 445-8443.

Ongoing: Volunteer Center of the Redwoods (VCOR): The Drop of a Hat Brigade connects volunteers of all ages with one time and short-term events. RSVP provides benefits such as limited mileage reimbursement for volunteers ages 55 and older. Info on these and other volunteer opportunities: 442-3711 or www.a1aa.org/VCOR/.

The Area 1 Agency on Aging sponsors many senior programs. Info: 442-9591 or www.a1aa.org.

The Emma Center Advocacy, support, referral services, library, and classes for trauma and abuse survivors. 920 Samoa Blvd. Suite 207, Arcata. Info: 825-6680 or info@emmacenter.org or www.emmacenter.org.

Vision Loss Services; Lighthouse of the North Coast, solutions for living with vision loss. Info: 268-5646 or www.lighthouse-sf.org.