



GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

May 2022

BELIEVING AND QUESTIONING

Our New England Synod Bishop has been publishing "THE NOTEBOOKS OF JAMES HAZELWOOD" for some time. A recent issue truly hit me right in the heart; strangely enough my plan was to speak to believing in this issue of Grace Notes, and his thoughts amplified, and made much richer, what I hoped to share with you here. Let's start with Jim's thoughts and his great image on a bike, having let go of his motorcycle to probably improve his health and to reduce the crowd following him on their motorcycles, as he motorcycled around New England and more distant lands:

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THE NOTEBOOKS OF JAMES HAZELWOOD

ASK A BETTER QUESTION

A Post-Secular World needs the Sacred

One question leads to another.

—Mary Oliver from Questions You Might Ask

Typically, when I visit congregations, I get asked: "How can we get young people to come to our church?" For the longest time, I would provide several responses. These ranged from inquiries regarding the demographics of the town to dispelling rumors of quick-fix strategies to stories of what other congregations are doing. I've decided I'm not doing that anymore. Instead, I'll give a different response.

"I'm sorry, I don't mean to be rude, but you ask the wrong question."

*Several years ago, I sat with a friend discussing various topics about the life of the church, the state of society, and our yearnings for a deeper and more meaningful life. He told me of the evolution he and his wife had gone through regarding their now-adult children and the subject of religion. "I no longer ask them about church or religion. It just put us into this awkward conversation with a shaming quality. So now I ask a different question. **I ask them where they are finding grace or peace or meaning.**"*



This exchange has stayed with me for a long time. I let it sit within me like a sweet sauce marinating my soul. He's right. His new questions are better. Asking people where they find grace, peace, or meaning is better. After all, isn't that what we want for our

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BELIEVING AND QUESTIONING

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friends and family members? Sure, we can ask them about their institutional affiliations, memberships, and community associations, but aren't we hoping they'll find their way in the world through intimacy, service, and soul?



I am concerned by the numbers of people who have left the church seemingly for good, or the numbers of children of members who were never a part of a faith group, including those from my own family. In many cases, the elders of the family are engaged in a life-long embrace of their faith, yet often after high school their children, nieces and nephews seem to be drawn into a secular context that can separate them from their family and the life they once lived with their parents.

Does science separate us? Does technology show that we can solve all of life's problems without something above and beyond us? Look at what we have done? To creation? To those different? To those in need? To those with little or nothing? To each other? War? Pestilence? Theft? Power? Violence? Hate? Disinformation?

Did they believe? Did they ever believe? Were their parents ever a part of their spiritual development or not? Many parents focus on their children's academics, sports, or arts interests and development, skipping the spiritual part? Too often, churches that were and still are closed systems, do not look like the world we live in. They may exist in separated communities and not be engaged in the challenges facing the world that we have left for them. This can leave our dear children sorting through the wrong ways to develop their belief systems and their moral compasses, never mind distinguishing between wealth, power, and self-interest, as opposed to caring about those suffering and excluded.

At Grace we have been blessed with young people with serious commitments to their families and communities in need. They volunteer, faithfully, most every week. Distributing food, talking, and engaging with people hungry, doing all they can to aid and care. These people come from families where there is a strong commitment to help others, evidenced by parents and others within their reach. At least one young person has also joined the core GHIAA Group to help with matters of social justice, too. The young people referred to here are not members of our worship community; rather they relate to Grace through matters of mercy, relationship building and justice. Churches are to be places where these things happen, where one can meet others, different from themselves, not just the same.

We churches need to look closely at these phenomena. It is striking that some of the largest and most engaged churches are to be found in urban centers, often filled with people of color whose survival was often enabled through their faith and their shared struggles. Increasingly

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BELIEVING AND QUESTIONING

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church integration, going both ways, is influenced by the unique position of different groups in their different communities. The ICU (Intergroup Cooperation and Understanding) programs of yesterday, are almost essential today. What once was a matter of social justice is now about the matter of our countries and faith groups' very survival.

We all need to learn how to live together in love. Not simply accepting each other for who we are. Not just helping at a soup kitchen, which is a step, but truly developing real relationships with all people in the context of caring not in acquiring more and competing with others who have done that. We can learn, as Jesus reminds us, to "love each other as I have loved you". Is it well with your souls first? Is God an individual search? Is faith an individual or a collective action? May we look and find... then go for it. Go for each one of us. Arm and arm with each other...

Easter is a time to learn, once again, to believe. The faith community helps us to do that. By becoming more diverse, by reaching out to all faiths and all people we can come together to know, appreciate, and value all what God has provided. We know how the denier Peter would once again follow the resurrected Christ. He had not been perfect; he had denied Him three times. He returned to his nets. Perhaps returning to the "Way" would have felt like he was a failure. He had to give up and return to what was familiar. He responds, once again to Jesus' call to follow him. He lets go of those all too familiar nets, and everything else.

Saul would find Easter through an encounter on the road to Damascus with the living Jesus. He was an exceptional Pharisee. Beating, killing, and rounding up those "Way" people, carrying those letters that gave him power over them until he changed. Ananias discovered he needed to change, too. He had to let go of his hate and anger. He did. We have been showed what to do by the women who went to the tomb, washed his feet with their hair, gave him water, and were there for him always. They all came to believe along with billions of others.

The pandemic has made it so hard for all of us to be with each other. So much was shuttered. So many were alone, locked up in miserable conditions, sickness everywhere, disinformation and fear. We have thought that faith was and is a personal matter. Unfortunately, there is another truth here. Faith is an experience of the collective. We can't learn to love without the people different from ourselves. That's the world we live in.

Joint services with First Calvary and Myanmar Baptist, pre-pandemic showed us how rich and real it was to share worship. There were differences and similarities but there was a growing sense of connection, of comradery, of love? Well, we were and are moving there.

We need the way to ask the questions. Not what Church are you going to, but, simply where and how do you find grace... meaning... life... and love? As people continue to come to prayers on Fridays... it may be useful to change the language from time to time. We can learn from each other, and, we can all find what we are looking for with and through our relationships, our connections and our love.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE - THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIPS AND PRAYER

We had fewer people at our Holy Week Services. Yet, beginning on the Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday, five people joined our congregation. Maundy Thursday was a gift for all those attending. Rodney Carr's voice is becoming a staple of our time together. No foot washing, but deep praying and holding. Good Friday was such an unexpected blessing. We were mourning the beatings, the denials, the hiding, the crucifixion, and the death. Somehow, once again the Spirit was with us.

Thanks to Wayne Dixon, his voice and his gifts for music. I cried as he sang. And, then, carrying the cross and hearing Rodney's voice clearly and mournfully leading the procession with his words... we walked out in darkness and we were once again praying that He would be with us again on the Sunday of Easter. He was.

In and through this our Canopy found its way to our door, love the collage of pictures that Judy created as a page in this issue. Look at it and think about all we have been through during these most difficult of times, and yet the sun still shines. The world is broken but we don't have to be. We can find the "Way" again, and thank God that we found it.

The real power in this world is the power of friendships and prayer. We have them all in good measure. May we wish our friends, members, and readers to look around you and remember just how much love there is for the taking and giving. May it give you and us the power to live... in Him.

Amen.



MOSAICS

Sometimes people will ask me, “There is so much happening in the world and in the country, and it all feels so big and overwhelming - what can I even do as one person?” What I try to convey every time is that no action is too small, and if you feel so moved, you can and should start with whatever is within arm’s reach or in your backyard. You can even start with yourself.



We live in a culture of grand gestures and big ambitions, but that also means we should be wary of how much “get-rich-quick” thinking can perpetuate beyond money schemes and into the idea that any/all major, impactful shifts happen suddenly and in dramatic fashion with a handful of major figures. The fact is, that couldn’t be further from the truth. Revolutionary and transformative changes, from the inside out, happen more like mosaics.



Think of it like this: no matter who we are, how visible or invisible or big or small, each one of us is just one tile. Whether you see that as liberating or disempowering is a matter of perspective. When you have your eye pressed all the way up to the single tile of a mosaic, it can look quite meaningless. A single piece of shattered glass could look worthless. Or perhaps a piece of small painted porcelain could seem beautiful, but too small to “be” anything. Or maybe a stunning rare slab of stone may think itself as the biggest piece when it is really a corner tile. The secret is, it’s all significant.

The two secrets of mosaics are:

1. Each piece (us + our small actions) is far more powerful and meaningful than we know, and
2. Each piece (we) need each other far more than we realize.

When we are able to step back from thinking our own broken, unfinished pieces are not enough, and start to see how all the other little pieces glistening alongside us start to form eyes and ears and abstract beauty and landscapes and symbols and more, we realize that just because we didn’t see the big picture at first doesn’t mean we weren’t part of one. So just do the small thing - for yourself and others. Choose your actions with humility, love, and enthusiasm. It means more than you know, and the world thanks you for it.

Take heart,

AMEN.

ISRAEL'S CHALLENGE AND A MESSAGE OF HOPE

By Jonathan Kuttab



Israeli authorities are very concerned these days about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, in the coming month, witnessing as it does the confluence of the Islamic month of Ramadan, the Jewish Passover holidays, and the Christian Easter season. Rumors abound of Israeli extremists wanting to invade the Al Aqsa mosque to assert Jewish claims over it during this season, while pent up frustrations by the Palestinians are bound to be triggered by any such actions, leading to serious consequences.

The problem is that the security authorities in Israel are torn between the need to control a volatile situation and the political directives of an increasingly strident right-wing political stance by the Israeli government and its politicians.

The traditional method that the police have followed so far has been to provide certain “band-aid” measures to contain the “security situation,” without addressing any serious grievances of the Palestinian community. Given the utter stalemate and absence of any attempt to promote genuine peace, or justice, these efforts are doomed to failure.

The problem is not a lack of “band aids.” After all, Israel has created an impressive array of restrictions, administrative measures, points of regulation, and an entire matrix of control over the Palestinian population, including a stranglehold on all economic, travel, social, developmental, and financial matters in the Palestinian territories. Furthermore, it has effectively shackled the Palestinian Authority, requiring it to become an active participant in that control matrix (under the guise of “security coordination”) to the point that the Palestinian Authority no longer holds any credibility among its own population, nor can it speak for them in any effective manner. The attitude within the Israeli government is that it has already won and, as such, does not need to make any concessions towards or negotiate with the Palestinians. At most, it needs to make temporary alleviations in order to prevent an explosion.

Their dilemma is so severe that the Israelis recently sought the help of the Jordanian king, inviting him to meet with Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah to discuss methods for reducing tensions during the month of Ramadan. Israel has also hinted that during the month they will:

ISRAEL'S CHALLENGE AND A MESSAGE OF HOPE

- Refrain from carrying out home demolitions,
- No longer restrict Muslim access to the Holy Sites, and
- Increase the number of work permits given to Palestinian workers to work in Israel or the Jewish settlements.

These are three significant measures, but only temporary band-aids.

What is required is a genuine attempt to address the political situation, not temporary palliatives. Palestinians, like all people, want freedom and not just a temporary relaxation of the bonds that restrict them. The Passover season should remind Israeli Jews that the Bible speaks of an end to bondage, not merely a relaxation of the conditions of their slavery. Oppressed people cry out, and the Lord hears their cries. For many, the psalms speak of the anguished cry: "Oh Lord, how long?" Yet, the psalms also speak to the ultimate sovereignty of God in history, of the triumph of good over evil, and of the promised redemption.

The Christian story of resurrection also echoes this theme. Christ's agonizing crucifixion, the dispersal of his disciples, and his burial in the tomb are not the end of the story. Jesus rises in glory to proclaim a new age and the improbable victory over the power of death itself, ushering the pathway to the Kingdom of Heaven where all oppression shall cease.

Can Palestinian Liberation Theology proclaim such a hope for an oppressed people?

Can we proclaim that the message of justice must be proclaimed loudly for all Palestinians and that this message is a liberating message of good news for both Palestinians and Jewish Israelis alike?!!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

"Let us cling to the certainty that God can forgive every sin. He forgives everyone. He can bridge every distance, and turn all mourning into dancing. The certainty that with Jesus there is always a place for everyone. That with Christ things are never over.

That with him, it is never too late. With God, we can always come back to life. Take courage!... For Christ constantly intercedes for us before the Father. Gazing upon our violent and tormented world, he never tires of repeating: Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Let us now do the same, in silence, in our hearts, and repeat:

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Pope Francis

Homily ~ April 10, 2022

EARTH DAY 2022: CALLING ON LAWMAKERS TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE



Today is Earth Day and more than ever before, Connecticut is at a critical climate crossroads. Over recent years we've made some progress, but we are far from acting quickly enough. If we do not rein in our emissions, global temperatures will shoot past a key danger point.

The good news is that we still have a real chance to do something about it. In Connecticut, we have the opportunity to take a leading role in turning things around. Right now, state lawmakers can pass legislation that would reduce carbon emissions by increasing access to electric vehicles, expanding commercial rooftop solar, offering a climate change curriculum in our public schools, and more.

Pivotaly, by supporting Senate Bill 10 and House Bill 5039 we can commit our state to a 100% zero-carbon, renewable energy supply by 2040, and dramatically reduce diesel air pollution from trucks and buses in Connecticut. These two bills will help Connecticut become energy independent, improve our air and water quality, create thousands of new jobs and substantively address the alarming and increasing impacts of climate change. Our state legislators must pass these two critical bills for our environment.

The time to act is now. The future of our health and climate depend on it. We need comprehensive action on all fronts if we want to be able to reach our climate goals. The CT League of Conservation Voters is calling on the General Assembly to send these bills to Governor Lamont's desk before the May 4th end of the legislative session:

S.B. 4, The Connecticut Clean Air Act

S.B. 10, 100% Zero-Carbon Energy by 2040

S.B. 214, Permit Sales of Electric Vehicles from Manufacturers

H.B. 5039, Medium & Heavy Duty Vehicle Emission Standards

H.B. 5285, Environmental Education in Public School Curriculum

S.B. 176, Shared Clean Energy Facilities

There are strong environmental champions at the Connecticut General Assembly who are fighting for our environment. We applaud and encourage their leadership on climate legislation and CTLCV is working hard to support their efforts to make progress this session.

"This Earth Day isn't necessarily a celebration, but instead an urgent call to action. We are running out of time to protect our planet and ensure that generations to come will breathe clean air and drink clean water. That's why we're fighting to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, expand solar energy, curtail the use of pesticides, encourage electric vehicle adoption, ban polystyrene, and so much more in the remaining days of this legislative session."

Senator Will Haskell (26th Senate District)
Deputy President Pro Tempore
Transportation Committee Chair

EARTH DAY 2022: CALLING ON LAWMAKERS TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE

"The first Earth Day was over half a century ago, in 1970, and despite all of the good public policy and consciousness raising that has gone on in that time, as we stand here today in 2022, our planet is faced with global warming, sea ice melting, stressed water supplies, extreme weather-related events, and the mass extinction of thousands of species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

Despite all this, I am still hopeful. I know my children are more sensitive to the condition of our planet than I was at their age. On this 52nd Earth Day, as we ponder how to invest in our planet, talk to your friends about the environment, join an environmental organization, make a phone call to a public official to support a policy."

State Senator Christine Cohen (12th Senate District)
Deputy President Pro Tempore
Environment Committee Chair

"We have failed to treat global warming as the serious threat that it is for far too long. We are now left with little time to make the bold changes we need to mitigate its worst effects. There are numerous bills that have been raised to help tackle this issue and it is imperative that we pass laws this session to set us on course for a sustainable future."

State Representative Brandon Chafee (33rd district)
Environment Committee member
Climate Caucus Chair

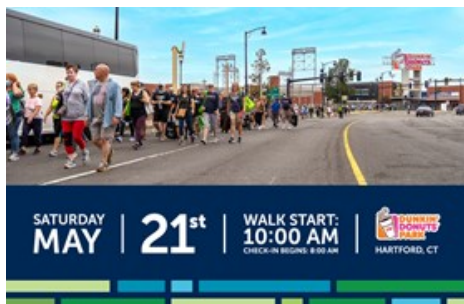
"The urgency of climate chaos is profound and can't be overstated. We need bold, fearless, uncompromising legislation. If we don't have a life-sustaining planet, none of our other work matters."

State Representative Christine Palm (36th House District)
Environment Committee Vice Chair

CT FOODSHARE WALK—MAY 21, 2022— WALK STARTS AT 10 A.M.



Join us on Saturday, May 21st at Dunkin Donuts Park, home of the Hartford Yard Goats, for this family-friendly and FREE event that raises awareness about food insecurity in Connecticut.



We are now registered under the team name Grace Lutheran Hartford. You can register and become a team member. You can walk in person or as a spirit walker.

Register at "Walk Against Hunger (onecause.com)"

Questions? Contact Louisa Barton-Duguay



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CENTERING ENCOUNTER IN NETWORK'S ADVOCACY

As we get ready for our **50th Anniversary Advocates Training and Gala** next week, I invite you to reflect on the words of Sr. Jan Cebula, OSF:

"Yes, we face some critical choices as we decide what kind of a people-a country-we want to be. It's OUR choice and we all have decisions to make at this pivotal time. Are we going to choose: to remain isolated or recognize the strength of community? To be fearful or reach out with compassion and love?"

~ Sister Jan Cebula, OSF, *Nuns on the Bus* 2016

In recent years, NETWORK continued to build on the legacy set by the lobbyists and organizers who came before, harnessing the power of community to advocate for federal policy change



From 2012 up through a virtual campaign in 2020, NETWORK's **Nuns on the Bus** trips encouraged communities across the country to share their stories of how national policy issues of immigration, health care, and federal budgets are not just statistics, but have real impact on their personal experiences.



NETWORK lobbyists and organizers worked with people in the communities the Bus visited to meet with Members of Congress and advocate for policies that better serve their families and communities.

Throughout 2019 and in early 2020, we hosted roundtable discussions listening to diverse groups of more than 250 people living in rural communities all across the United States. NETWORK published a report titled **"Raising Rural Voices,"** lifting up their hopes and hardships, to help guide federal policy decisions in Washington.

"This report reflects the 'active listening' that doesn't occur frequently enough within states or with policymakers in Washington. Too many decisions are made without understanding the perspective of rural residents or acknowledging the values of shared obligations."

~ Kathleen Sebelius, *Former Kansas Governor and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Forward to "Raising Rural Voices"*



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CENTERING ENCOUNTER IN NETWORK'S ADVOCACY

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And, over the last year the **NETWORK** community has continued to prioritize encounter in our organizing. Just last December, more than 80 Catholic Sisters and their advocacy partners rallied outside the White House to bear witness to their experiences serving migrants at the Southern Border and protest the inhumane misuse of Title 42 and call for its end. While strides forward have been made, there is still much to do in order to build a humane and just asylum system.

As we celebrate NETWORK's 50th Anniversary, we recommit to **centering encounter in our advocacy**. This important work can only happen in community, and we are grateful to count you as part of our NETWORK community.

I have enjoyed sharing my stories with you over the past few weeks. Through the many changes in technology and shifts in politics over the years, NETWORK has remained steadfast in our political ministry. Together, we will continue to work for economic and social transformation for many years to come..



In Solidarity,
Dr. Mara Rutten
NETWORK Historian

CLIMATE BILLS—SB 4 PASSED THE SENATE!



Great job!

SB 4 was amended to include HB 5039, making it an extremely strong bill to address climate change and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. SB 4 will electrify the state's vehicle fleet, including electric school buses, increase EV chargers around the state, and provide funding. HB 5039 will require medium and heavy duty trucks to be brought up to CA emission standards. Together, they address environmental justice and air quality issues in measurable and powerful ways.

After 7 hours of debate (skillfully handled by Sen. Haskell and Sen. Cohen), the Senate passed SB 4 as amended.

Now it must pass the House!

CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE and urge them to support SB 4!

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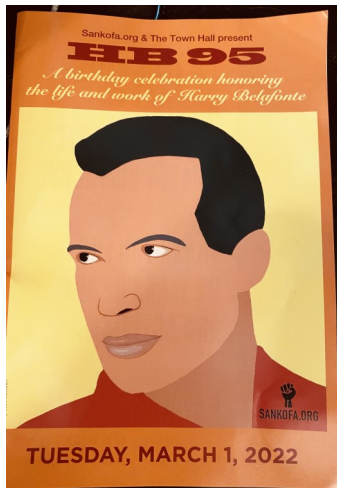
MR. B., MS. LEE & ME Last night on Broadway



Last night I was invited to appear on stage at the Town Hall theater in Times Square as part of a grand celebration of one of our greatest living artists and activists, Mr. Harry Belafonte — *on his 95th birthday!* Others taking the stage included Alicia Keys, Spike Lee, Angela Bassett, Danny Glover, Laurence Fishburne, Whoopi Goldberg, Doug E. Fresh, Bill T. Jones and Cornel West.

This was my first time in a theater since I was campaigning with Bernie in New Hampshire over two years ago. It was personally an uplifting moment for me to be out and around good (vaccinated) people who are on the front lines in the fight for our Democracy — as are all of you.

If you don't mind, I thought you might like to read my remarks from last night, and I'd love to share them with you. So here they are! Enjoy!



Hello. I'm Michael Moore.

Tonight we celebrate and honor the great Harry Belafonte on his 95th birthday. Hello, Harry! Happy 95th!

Think of everything you've seen in these 95 years! Just a few hours after you were born, the infamous right-wing Judge Robert Bork — the judge who supported poll taxes in the South and carried out Nixon's orders to fire the Watergate Special Prosecutor — he was born just two hours after you!

Coincidence? Who knows? It doesn't really mean anything other than that during the pandemic I guess I've had a lot of free time to look up random things like, "who also was born on March 1, 1927?" Or that the biggest movie in that year you were born starred a white man in blackface (*The Jazz Singer*). You came into this world just 62 years after slavery and the Civil War. Women at that time in 1927 had only voted in *two* presidential elections — 150 years after the Declaration of Independence. There was no Voting Rights Act for Black Americans.

Just like now.

Harry, you have been a beacon for so many righteous causes for so many decades and while we still have much work to do, I am strangely hopeful. There is a shrine in New York City — and I've never told you this — but each time I come to see you in your home, there's a picture hanging in the hallway by your front door — and each time I pass it, I touch it. We live now in a time of despair, where there are days that seem utterly hopeless — but I always feel better when I touch this photograph!

It is of you and your dear and close friend, Martin Luther King, Jr. The two of you are laughing hysterically. I had never seen Dr. King laughing.



It looks like you may have just whispered something in his ear — and then you both just howled.

What did you say?!

YOU made Martin Luther King... *Laugh!* I look at this and I can't help but smile myself, and chuckle, and each time when I leave, after time spent with you and Pam, I feel hope in a way I never feel it. I feel Joy. I believe in The Possibilities. I love You and everything you've given us. I'm here on this stage tonight to present, in your honor, the Harry Belafonte Social Justice Award to, among others, a brave American whose work you and I greatly admire.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee began her political life as a young woman serving as the campaign manager for Black Panther leader, Huey Newton, in his run for Mayor of Oakland, California. (*Spike, there's gotta be a movie in there somewhere!*)



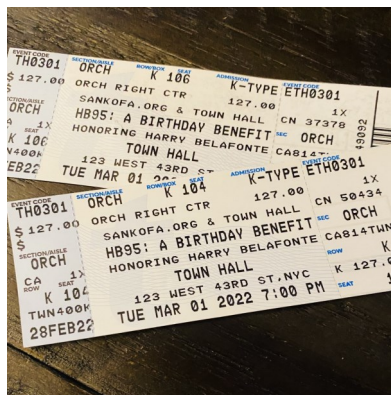
Congresswoman Lee received her Masters of Social Work from UC-Berkeley, specializing in psychiatric social work. During her graduate work, she founded the Community Health Alliance for Neighborhood Growth and Education (CHANGE, Inc.) which provided mental health services to many of the East Bay's most vulnerable individuals.

She has represented California's 13th District in Congress since 1998. She is the highest ranking African American woman in the Democratic Leadership.

But she will always be remembered by me and by many of you for her historic "profile in courage" when, just *three days* after 9/11, out of the 535 members of Congress, including the U.S. Senate, she was THE ONLY ONE to vote against the U.S. invading Afghanistan, *the only one to vote against war*. At a time when more than 70% of the country was in a rage for revenge at any cost, Barbara Lee was the one, lone — and, I can imagine, *lonely* — voice for peace and sanity.

Her singular action proved sadly prescient as that authorization vote was, as she had warned, "a blank check for the president to take us into endless war." **Every** liberal, **every** progressive in Congress voted **for** this invasion that was the gateway to another war in Iraq. The Afghanistan War became America's longest war, one that was not brought to an end *until just a few months ago* — some 20+ years after Congresswoman Lee tried to prevent it from happening.

Thousands of Americans sadly died in a war crime that killed over a million Iraqis and Afghans. Will God ever forgive us? Will the Iraqis, or the Afghans? Will we?



So tonight, I'd like to present to Barbara Lee, on behalf of Harry, this Social Justice Award.

Congresswoman Lee is, as we speak right now, seated on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, participating in President Biden's first State of the Union address, so unfortunately she can't be here. (I know what you're thinking — Congress? Or Broadway! If that's your choice, isn't it a no-brainer?!)

MR. B., MS. LEE & ME

I want to close by thanking everyone here, and to Harry's daughter, Gina, for organizing this event.

And to all of you — Don't give up. There's more of us than there are of them. No amount of crazy and Q-Anon can change that. And, to quote Spike, that's the truth, Ruth.

On the ride home from Broadway last night, thinking, what's next?

And humming "Day-O!"



YES by Bernie Sanders



Climate change is an existential threat to our planet. To put it simply, if the United States and the global community don't get their act together and move away from fossil fuels in a very aggressive way, the planet we will be leaving our kids and grandchildren will be increasingly uninhabitable.

Further, it is an issue of national security. We cannot continue to be dependent for our energy supplies on petro-dictatorships in Russia, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. Breaking our dependence on fossil fuels will help lead to a more democratic world.

Earlier this week, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its annual report making it clear that we are running out of time to confront this problem.

If we don't move boldly, we will see more devastating and extreme heat. We will see more floods. We will see rising sea levels and more destructive weather disturbances. We will see more ocean acidification, more drought, more famine, more disease.

According to the report, we will see food scarcity with the loss of key crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture products. We will see water scarcity during the peak water demand periods. We will see coastal and urban flooding result in the disruption of supply chains.

We will see shorter lifespans and worse mental health. We will see increased instances of food and waterborne disease, human and animal diseases. Increased exposure to wildfires will mean more heart and lung diseases, and flooding during extreme weather events will make it harder for health care services to get to those who need it.

These are some of the social costs of a rapidly warming planet. For my colleagues who moan and groan that we cannot afford to take strong action to break our dependency on fossil fuels, this analysis tells us that we cannot afford NOT to act because the economic costs of a deteriorating climate will be extraordinarily high.

Economists have made it clear that the cost of not acting on climate change will mean more than \$100 trillion in lost economic activity throughout the world.

Climate change will throw more than 100 million people throughout the world into extreme poverty.

YES

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Climate change will result in the mass migration and displacement of more than 140 million people in Latin America, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa by the middle of this century. The CIA has made it clear that the impact of climate change will substantially increase the risk of war, social unrest and cross-border tensions.

This is reality.

This is our future.

This is the planet we are leaving for our children and for our grandchildren.

Unless we act.

We are staring at a very fundamental choice, and nothing less than the future of our planet is at stake. On the one hand, we can listen to the fossil fuel industry and the climate deniers, not worry about the impact of climate change, and turn our backs on our children and our grandchildren. On the other hand, we can listen to the scientists who tell us that we have got to act boldly, aggressively, and immediately to prevent a climate catastrophe. And, by the way, if we do that we can create millions of good-paying jobs and help lead the world in a new energy direction.

Yes. We can transform our energy systems away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energy. We can do that in transportation, electricity generation, agriculture and making our buildings and appliances more energy efficient. And when we do that we not only combat climate change but we create a cleaner and healthier environment.

Yes. We can build the new electric cars and trucks we need and make it easier for working families to buy them. We can also build the electric buses and high-speed rail systems we need.

Yes. We can weatherize millions of homes and buildings, cut carbon emissions and lower energy bills.

Yes. We can move away from coal and gas electricity generation and convert to wind, solar and hydro.

Yes. We can invest in conservation and public lands to heal our soils, forests and prairie lands.

Yes. We can support small family farms by investing in ecologically regenerative and sustainable agriculture.

Yes. We can fund research and development to drastically reduce the cost of energy storage.

Yes. We can build a modern smart grid, one that is resilient, secure and capable of managing high amounts of renewable energy and maximizing efficiency.

Everyone knows that there is a lot going on in the world right now.

The pandemic continues. We face massive income and wealth inequality. Inflation eats away at our standard of living. Democracy here and abroad is under assault. And Russia's outrageous invasion of Ukraine reminds us of the incredible savagery of war that we had hoped was long behind us.

But, in the midst of all of this, there is a simple truth. For the sake of our kids and future generations, for the sake of the planet, we cannot give in to despair. We have got to stand up and fight back.

YES

(continued from page 16)

We have got to transform our energy system. We have got to develop economic policies that work for all, and not just the few. We have got to end all forms of bigotry. We have got to revitalize American democracy.

Now, I cannot do that alone. And over the course of the next few months, our supporters are going to be doing everything possible to generate the largest voter turnout in American history, reaching out to people who might otherwise not be voting and turning them out in November. We'll be making phone calls, sending text messages, and safely distributing literature throughout communities across this country.

Because if Republicans take control of the House and Senate, I think we all understand that the chances of accomplishing anything significant with respect to climate, or anything else, becomes virtually non-existent.

Our work takes resources, but it is important work that must be done.

We are custodians of this Earth. ALL OF US are. And it would be an absolute moral disgrace and abomination if we left future generations a planet that was unhealthy, unsafe, and uninhabitable.

Not me. Us.

In solidarity,
Bernie Sanders

MORE CLIMATE BILLS

continued from page 12

Along with SB 4, these bills would make significant progress to lower climate destroying greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from trucks and buses, grow solar energy in the state, and teach science based climate education.

SB 10 - will ensure a 100% zero-carbon electricity supply in Connecticut by 2040..This bill has NOT passed the Senate, however, the aide to Senator Needleman just said that they expected SB 10 to be called for a vote very soon. **Call Senate leadership and urge them to bring this bill forward for a vote!**

SB 120 passed the Senate last week. The bill bans chlorpyrifos and creates a DEEP study group to make recommendations on Neonicotinoids for next session. While we are disappointed that neonics weren't included in the ban, eliminating chlorpyrifos is still a significant victory, so let's get it done. (And go back next year for neonicotinoids!) **Call your REPRESENTATIVE and ask them to vote for SB 120!**

SB 176 - this bill would expand caps for commercial solar and expand the amount that they can install on their rooftops. Right now, businesses have a cap on the amount of solar that they can install AND they can only install enough solar to power their business. This bill would double the caps and allow them to install as much solar as their roof will allow, increasing the amount of renewable energy on the grid. **CALL YOUR SENATOR and ask them to support SB 176!**

SOLAR PANEL REPORT—MARCH, 2022



Produced

2.1 MWh
34% higher *

29 Mar : 112.6 kWh
Maximum production day

Consumed

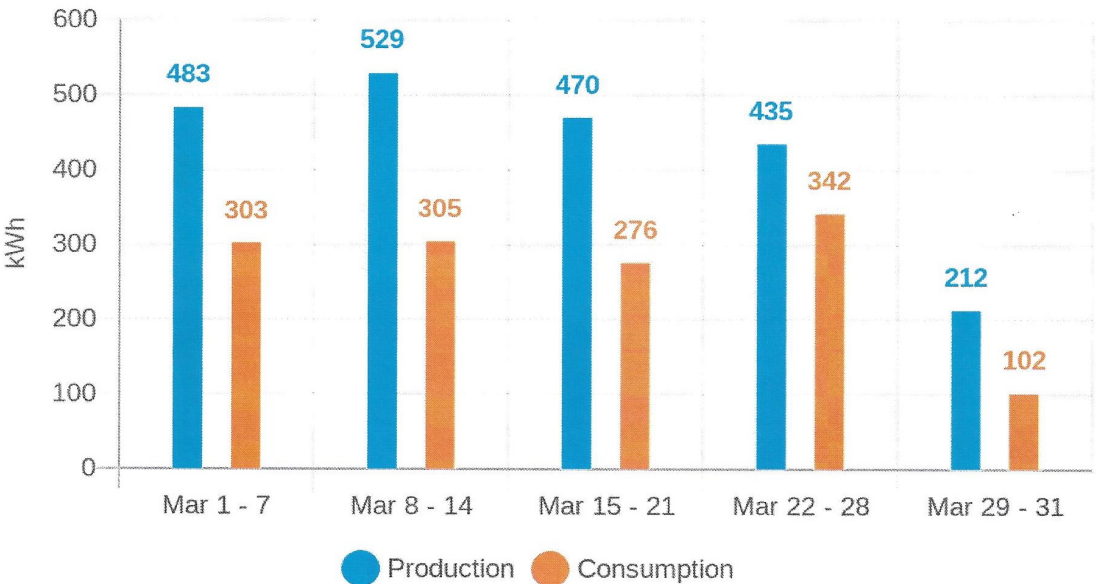
1.3 MWh
25% higher *

25 Mar : 95.5 kWh
Maximum consumption day

Grid energy

660.3 kWh
Imported

1.5 MWh
Exported



Carbon offset

1.47 ton

Offset equivalent to 38
Trees

Energy Independence

50%

For this month, 50% of your energy consumption is supplied by the utility grid.

Get grid independence with Enphase

Add Storage

Year-to-date production
5 MWh

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May 2022 Birthdays!

Happy Birthday!

To all May Birthdays!



Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?
Contact the office,
860-527-7792 or email
office.gracelutheranhartford@gmail.com
to update our records.

***May you all be blessed as
you celebrate your special
days!***



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