

Greetings!



Rooted in Resistance and Love

The above protester was at the ICE facility in Burlington, Massachusetts, one of ongoing protests around the country to protest and resist the acts of cruelty and disrespect by ICE agents acting at the direction of the president. Her jacket reads:

Greet with kindness and respect

Introduce yourself by name

Protect rights and dignity

Listen with empathy

Share information about rights, local services and support organizations

Help, don't harm

We are all "Nice Agents."

We are agents of kindness, compassion, empathy, truth, generosity, fairness, justice. As Nice Agents we must also condemn and call out cruelty, corruption, greed, lying, hate speech, incompetence, illegal actions, violations of the Constitution. As Robert Hubbell says, "We must act with moral clarity, firmness of purpose, and urgency while adhering to the Constitution and embracing truth and compassion as our twin compasses." He reminds us that we have agency. We are not potted plants. We can DO SOMETHING to change our situation. **Our democracy is on the line and one big danger is complacency.**

"Love, the kind that casts out fear, isn't soft. It is revolutionary. It unseats empires precisely because it cannot be bought, bribed, or threatened." —Rev. Cameron Trimble



Stories, insights
and action for a world
that works for all of us

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*Justice is what love looks  
like in public.*

Jim Hightower

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Favorite Resources

[Fix the News](#)

(Future Crunch)

[Reasons to be Cheerful](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

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*We will and must resist  
and protest as long as it  
takes to get our  
democracy back*

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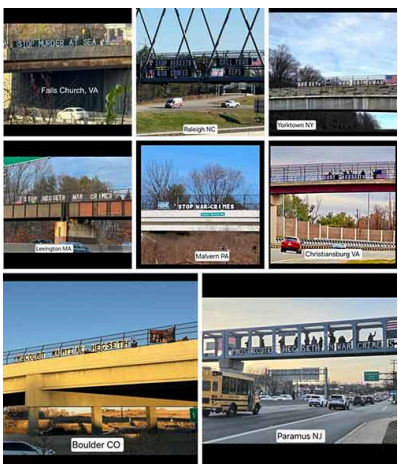
This Month's Features



The End Game Making Sense of the Chaos

Heather Cox Richardson is one of those exceptional political commentators who can articulate, clarify and make sense of the current state of affairs in this country. [In this particularly excellent podcast on December 4th](#) she gives us a "drive by in American history" because if we look back "a lot of what's going on now makes a lot more sense. In the craziness [of what's going on now] you're seeing **the end game of a 40-50 years movement to get rid of American democracy.**"

With that perspective she then touches on what's happening with current anti-immigration actions, the killings in Venezuela, the distinction between oligarchy and kleptocracy, corruption, AI and the tech bros. A core conviction of those in power now is that some people are better than others, and should therefore be the ones in power. **"This is the time when all of us have to say ENOUGH!"** I really encourage you to listen to this particular podcast. She records "Politics Chat" every Tuesday and Thursday. [This 56 minute podcast](#) is well worth your time.



Speaking Up! Rush Hour Resistance!

Visibility Brigades are happening all over the country. I was excited to see one on my way into Santa Fe a few weeks ago! The point is to be *visible* with our outrage and alarm at the harm this administration is doing to our country and our relations in the world. As Jessica Craven says, "If you can't join a group then **become a one-person visibility brigade** by posting a sign in your yard, or your car, or on a nearby public wall. Do a chalk drawing saying 'We love immigrants!' in your driveway. Print flyers and put them on local lamp posts! There are as many ways to resist and spread the word as there are people who are fighting for our democracy. Get creative!" And write postcards, call your legislators, talk to friends.

We want our country back!



democracy back.

Action Sites for Democracy and Our Planet Given the continued threats to our democracy and our Earth, this resource guide lists our favorite sources of information, opportunities for action and hope. **We must protest as long as it takes to get our**

Reclaiming and Protecting Our Democracy is Every Day

[Chop Wood, Carry Water, by Jessica Craven:](#) Provides daily actions for our democracy. Always encouraging.

[Steady, by Dan Rather:](#) Excellent commentary on current affairs.

[Today's Edition Newsletter, by Robert Hubbell:](#) Reflections on and summary of today's news.

[Letters from an American, by Heather Cox Richardson:](#) Commentary on current news.

[The Status Kuo, by Jay Kuo:](#) Commentary and analysis of today's news. (I recommend "Surviving the Next Four Years" for strategies such as: avoid doom and despair; be a voice of hope, not fear; unplug from

network news; commit small acts of resistance." [Read here.](#))

[Hopium Chronicles](#), by [Simon Rosenberg](#): Current analysis and frequent interviews.

[Indivisible.org](#): a good source for information on future rallies.

Climate Action: Every Action Counts!

[Climate Action Now!](#): Subscribe and get an action to do every day, plus climate hope.

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

An old saying: We can all be the someone who is doing something.

All Kinds of Good News



Swords to plowshares Guns into garden tools

RAWtools (war spelled backwards) is a non profit project operating in four east coast states. Since it began 17 years ago RAWtools has destroyed and repurposed more than 6,000 guns, forging them into garden tools and art. A national network of volunteers, blacksmiths, woodworkers and artists will even pick up firearms from donors' homes. Read the [article](#) here, and their [website](#) here.



Repair Cafes around the world

In a consumer culture that thrives on folks having to buy new stuff Repair Cafes are operating to curb waste and keep things going. New York alone has nearly 70 cafes across the state, which host at least one event each year to help locals bring their beloved jewelry, home goods or technology back to life. States including California, Colorado and Minnesota have passed "Right to Repair" legislation to protect consumers' ability to fix or modify their purchases, but many states still lack these safeguards. We can keep stuff going longer than we think! [Read more here.](#)



"Crown Thy Good with Brotherhood"

We climbed the winding steps up to her crown
The challenges were worth the wondrous view
We walked the double helix up and down
As architecture admiration grew.

Those "huddled masses" saw her from the sea
A vision filled with great anticipation
Imagining their yearning to breathe free
We felt a similar hope for our great nation.

The New Colossus welcomes all who strive
For whether immigrants are rich or poor
The light she shines invites them all to thrive
She lifts her lamp beside the golden door.

We stand, as she, for possibility
We climb for Truth and for democracy.

This sonnet was written by our dear friend Maxine Kaye after she and her partner, both in their eighties, climbed to the top of the Statue of Liberty. Maxine is Senior Minister of Greater Philadelphia Center for Spiritual Living.



We're the home of the brave and the land of the free.
If we want to be free then we've got to be brave.
—Mark Ruffalo

KISSES KISSES KISSES



Ever wondered how kisses became kisses? Well, this article explains that kisses probably began 21 million years ago. Maybe even Neanderthals kissed! The article explains the *when*, but not the *why*, leaving that for us to ponder, and enjoy our kisses. [Read more here.](#)

*Have a loving and active January and New Year!
Virginia/Gibi*



**Time to shout!
Time to be loud!
Time to act!**

"We cannot meet this moment with the old comforts of neutrality." Rev. Cameron Trimble writes about the "soul sickness" that has infected our society and what we must do to heal. Read more in [my column.](#)

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