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## The BiWeekly **TAKE** | Thoughtful **Action**, **Kindness** and **Engagement**

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*New to the Newsletter? The BiWeekly TAKE is SURJ Santa Maria's Newsletter. It appears every other week and this is Volume 2, Issue 11. Recent issues can be found on our website. Older issues available upon request.*

### **Website**

[surjsantamaria.org](http://surjsantamaria.org)

To contact SURJ Santa Maria please send an email to: [\*\*surjsantamaria@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:surjsantamaria@gmail.com)

Please visit our [FaceBook Page](#)

Join us now on [Instagram!](#)

Use this link to find out more about the national organization [\*\*SURJ\*\*](#)

**Thanks for reading!**

**We welcome new members and interested persons serious about exploring their own white privilege! If you would like to join, please contact us at the email address above.**

## In Honor Of George Floyd

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In cities and communities all across the country there will be memorials and remembrances on May 25th to honor the life of George Floyd. For some of us this began our commitment to change the racist systems once and for all so that there is equity for all. For others his death reaffirmed the importance of what our small chapter had set out to do.

Please show up at City Hall in Santa Maria on May 25th at 5:00PM to join the NAACP as we honor the life of George Floyd.

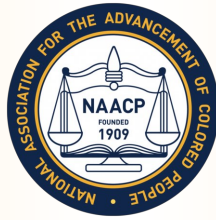
Peace, love and hope.

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his Issue Includes:

- **TAKE** Action - Get Involved!
- Members Taking Action
- Local Announcements/Chapter News
- On the Inter/National Front
- Resources, Reading & Listening Material



**Santa Maria - Lompoc**  
**#WeAreDoneDying**



**1st Anniversary Memorial**  
**HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE FLOYD**  
**OCTOBER 14, 1973-MAY 25, 2020**

*"The dead cannot cry out for justice; it is a duty of the living to do so for them."*

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**  
**Beginning at 5 p.m.**

**Santa Maria City Hall & Lompoc City Hall**  
**Social Distancing and Masks Required**

**For more information, call 805-448-7869**

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## AKE Action - Get Involved!



**Tuesday, May 25th at 5:00PM**, the NAACP will be holding a **George Floyd Memorial** at City Hall in both Santa Maria and Lompoc. I encourage all members and SURJ supporters to show up for this important event. (*See flyer at the start of the newsletter*).



The next Santa Maria City Council meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 01, 2021 at 5:30PM**. You may view the meeting via [Live Stream](#) or [view this page](#) for additional information. Agendas generally come out the Friday before the meeting.



The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will hold **budget hearings on June 8 and 10**. The next general meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 15, 2021, beginning at 9:00AM**. An agenda is not yet available. Click [here](#) for all meeting dates for 2021. Click [here](#) for instructions on the hearing process and how to participate.



The date has changed for the annual Truth Act Forum. At the discretion of the Sheriff's Department they have rescheduled the Forum to occur on June 22nd. To clarify, the Truth Act Forum is where the Sheriff's Department must publicly disclose how they collaborate with I.C.E. to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. **CAUSE will be looking for support** at this important meeting and now you have more time!

To make a public comment either:

- Submit **written comments by Monday, June 21st at 5pm**, to [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org).
- Give public comment at the meeting on **Tuesday June 22** (Time TBA). A link to access an agenda will be provided later.
- Updated talking points will be provided by CAUSE at a later date.



Here are just two actions that SURJ National invites all of us to take part in:

1. In partnership with Detention Watch Network (DWN), SURJ is working not only to abolish ICE but to break the cycle of mass incarceration at the border. Learn more [here](#) and take action in these ways: **Tell your Congressperson to [cut funding for ICE and CBP and defund hate](#)**, and **[sign this petition to Congress](#)**. Right now, Congress is figuring out how to fund the government,

determining how much money different agencies, including ICE and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), will get for this year. Members of Congress can and should cut funding to ICE and CBP based on their records of abuse and consistent rejection of oversight and accountability, demonstrating time and again that they are beyond reform.

**[Sign up today](#) to take action through SURJ's monthly action phone zaps** supporting the work DWN and all of our partners to win racial and economic justice. You'll join the welcoming community of SURJ members and receive training and support throughout the session.

2. Join SURJ on **Thursday, May 27 at 5:00PM** for [a mass meeting for white people committing to the work of racial justice](#).

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## **M**embers Taking Action

- Varying circumstances have led to a couple of commissioners on the County of Santa Barbara Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission to drop out, creating an at-large vacancy. At their last meeting our own **Kate Adams** was unanimously voted to fill that vacancy! Thanks to Kate for stepping up to take on this incredibly important task!
  - **Pam Gates** has been working behind the scenes to put on a second Community Dialogue (CD), to be held in June. This CD will be a follow-up to our successful CD with the Racial Justice Committee. We are looking for support-please contact [surjsantamaria@gmail.com](mailto:surjsantamaria@gmail.com) to lend a hand!
  - Congratulations to our members **Pam Gates, Cliff Solomon and Julianna Neel** who will all be receiving awards at the annual SBCAN awards ceremony! Pam and Cliff will receive the "Social Justice Award" and Julianna will be receiving the "Youth Activist Award". Thank you for your hard work and dedication!
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## **Local Announcements/Chapter News:**

- ✿ SURJ Santa Maria's next **General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, May 27 at 6:30PM**. We will be bringing members up to date on Chapter actions and participating in some simple exercises related to cultural humility.
  - ✿ The next **Steering Committee Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, June 08, at 6:30PM**. Members should have received an agenda and a Zoom link.
  - ✿ The **SURJ Book Group** will be meeting on **June 27 at 2:00PM** to discuss Joy Harjo's book, "Crazy Brave". [Joy Harjo](#) is currently our (US) Poet Laureate. The next book in the queue is "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man" by Emmanuel Acho. Contact SURJ via email if you'd like to join or call Janice Reid at 805-710-1683.  
*\*Note-the discussion will be limited to 1.5 hours to allow for members to attend SBCAN's Award Ceremony celebrating three of our members!*
  - ✿ Elections and voting...Think that November is too far away to begin thinking about elections? Recently the SLO Co Board of Supervisors voted to approve a restrictive voting measure, returning to the pre-COVID method of more polling places but only one day of voting. ([See SLO Tribune article here](#)). While SB 29 (which requires that each person be mailed a ballot) will still be in effect for the recall election it is worth noting that the Republican members of SLO's board are listening to the falsehoods about voter fraud. It's also worth noting that AB-37 is in the works and would essentially expand SB 29 beyond 2021. For SB County it is more of a budget issue. The Dept. of Elections initially supported the [Voters Choice Act](#). But with the costs of the recall election they are now opting for AB-37 which they see as less expensive but with many of the benefits of the VCA.
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## **O**n the Inter/**N**ational Front

### The **G**ood News

- [Legislation is signed](#) to address hate crimes targeting Asian Americans.
- Passing [police reform legislation](#) by May 25th, the anniversary of George Floyd's death, may not materialize but lawmakers say progress is being made.
- If you were a fan of the educational video game Oregon Trail, it's had a redesign. As part of the makeover, Indigenous historians were brought in to better and more accurately reflect the names of the Native American characters as well as the roles they played in history. [Here's a short story to explain](#).
- Patagonia, the company, is not known for its inexpensive products but it has and continues to work very hard to do the right thing by investing in sustainable practices and products. Here are a couple of stories they have shared: [Down to the Root](#) about farmworkers and a program called ALBA, and [Undeniable](#) about protecting Native Lands from oil and gas extraction.

### The **H**ard News

- The District Attorney where Andrew Brown was killed declared his killing by police, "justified". The NAACP is calling for a [federal investigation](#).
  - Watch and listen to [Viola Fletcher](#), who's 107, as she spoke at a hearing on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Listen to [others](#) too.
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## Resources, Reading & Listening Material:



- ✦ Ibram X. Kendi has a podcast, “Be Antiracist”, that comes out in June, by iHeartRadio & Pushkin Industries *Leslie McGorman*
- ✦ Number 19 on Robin DiAngelo’s list of [103 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#). Read up about mandatory minimum sentences and watch videos about this on Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM’s [website](#)). FAMM’s website includes work being done at the federal level and state level. Call or write to your state legislators and governor about reducing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug crimes.
- ✦ [Traffic stops](#) are not minor when you’re a person of color.

### Author’s notes:

*I often take my news from sources that I find to be consistently accurate with good writing like The New York Times, The Atlantic, NPR and others. I also use our local sources for local news such as The Santa Maria Times, the Sun and Noozhawk. If there are stories you feel are pertinent and sources you think I should take a look at, please send an email in care of me, Kathy Sharum, to [surjsantamaria@gmail.com](mailto:surjsantamaria@gmail.com).*

*If you wish to no longer receive these newsletters you can let me know that too.*

**This Take’s news sources:** Santa Barbara Legistar, City of Santa Maria, [medium.com](https://medium.com), [npr.org](https://npr.org), [theweek.com](https://theweek.com), [c-span.org](https://c-span.org), [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com), [WRIC.com](https://wruc.com), [Patagonia.com](https://patagonia.com), [thehill.com](https://thehill.com), [sos.ca.gov](https://sos.ca.gov), [sanluisobispo.com](https://sanluisobispo.com), [joyharjo.com](https://joyharjo.com)

*Thanks to Pam Gates, Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt and Leslie McGorman for their newsletter contributions. A huge thank you to all of our readers, members and allies!*

That’s it for this issue!  
Until next time - Kathy