

Newsletter: Next Tuesday, make “a passionate plea” at our statewide MLK reading

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Thu, Mar 30, 2023

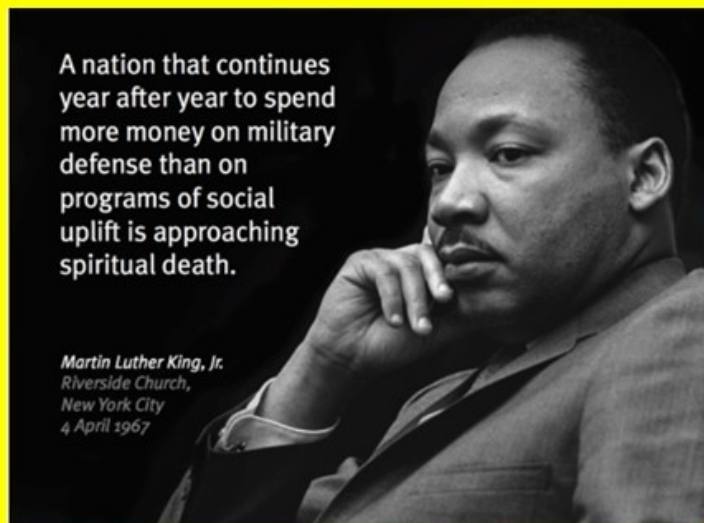
# CALIFORNIA



*Did you know that 30 percent of Peralta Community College District students say they have experienced homelessness? If that number alarms you, check out the petition below. You'll also find updates on next week's readings of Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech. And if you're dismayed by the latest bank bailouts, you'll want to read Bishop Barber and Rev. Dr. Theoharis's new CNN op-ed.*

# Announcements

April 4, 2023: Participatory readings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prophetic speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence." Organize or join a reading in-person or online.  
Statewide online reading April 4, 2023 from 6:30—8:00 pm.



*Called by the California Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival*

**Next Tuesday, join us in reading Dr. King's prophetic speech  
Statewide online meeting at 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)**

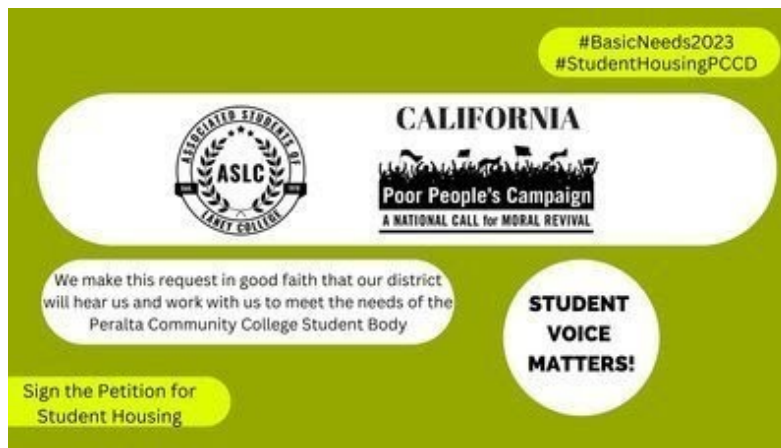
On April 4, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, California PPC is once again organizing readings of his speech "[Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#)"—a tradition that the PPC has honored for years with gatherings both in-person and online.

This year's readings will be part of CA PPC's Close the Wealth Gap, California! campaign, an outgrowth of the PPC's [Third Reconstruction Agenda to Heal the Nation](#). These participatory readings will take place across the state and at a [statewide virtual reading](#) in the evening.

An updated [toolkit for the 2023 readings](#) has been posted by United for Peace & Justice, a PPC national mobilizing partner. In it, you'll find the text of the speech divided into 16 sections, in English and in Spanish. You'll also find an introduction for 2023 (in English), a slideshow of previous "Beyond Vietnam" readings and more.

**Please let us know if you're planning a reading on April 4 by filling out this [form](#).**

Some background: On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before his assassination, Dr. King delivered the prophetic "[Beyond Vietnam](#)" speech. We believe that Dr. King's words were both precautionary and prophetic, providing both a diagnosis and a cure—"a true revolution of values"—for our society's gravest illnesses: "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism and militarism."



## Support students organizing for affordable housing

The Associated Students of Laney College in Alameda County, in partnership with the CA PPC and our Laney College members, need your support! Students in the Peralta Community College District (comprising four Bay Area community colleges, including Laney) are finding it increasingly difficult to continue their education due to the high costs of housing in their community. In fact, 30 percent of Peralta students have reported that they were homeless during the last year, compared to 14 percent of students nationwide.

Fortunately, there is a solution in [State Senate Bill 169](#). This bill provides grants for California community colleges to help with the construction of student housing or the acquisition or renovation of commercial properties to provide low-cost housing. Peralta students are asking their administrators to take advantage of this program while the money lasts. You can help by [adding your name to this petition](#). California PPC has endorsed this action as a tangible way to close California's wealth gap.

## Upcoming meeting

### Los Angeles regional meeting

Sunday Apr. 2, 3pm | [RSVP](#)

Join us as we prepare to mark the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. We'll also share news on upcoming national PPC events and local activities to Close the Wealth Gap, California! Invite your friends, neighbors, community members—all are welcome. We hope to see you there.

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## Support the California PPC!

*When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.*

**DONATE**

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## PPC in the media

### **“America, stop grinding the faces of the poor”**

In a bracing [CNN opinion piece](#), national PPC co-chairs Bishop Barber and Rev. Dr. Theoharis take aim at the politicians who continue to protect the wealthy while making cuts to programs that have lifted millions out of poverty. (The headline comes from the Book of Isaiah: “What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor?”) The loss of expanded pandemic-era SNAP benefits is expected to affect 16 million households, and an estimated 15 million people are at risk of losing lifesaving health insurance. The authors ask, “How is it that food assistance benefits face cuts at precisely the same moment that high-earning depositors of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank are being rescued to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars?”

Bishop Barber and Rev. Dr. Theoharis end by reminding us that it’s not a scarcity of resources we face, but a lack of political will. They invoke a phrase familiar to PPC activists: “America, it’s time for a wake-up call. Poverty, hunger, despair and inequality are killing too many people.... This problem has gone on for far too long, and we will not be silent anymore.”

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*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*