

# LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY

Friday, July 12, 2019

Benicia City Park

7-9 p.m.



## GATHERING TIME

*Take time to visit displays, appreciate Nikki Basch-Davis' paintings, pick up a candle, maybe sign a petition. . .*

## OPENING SONGS

“Gracias á Vida” [solo by Sierra Reinertson]

“Deportee” [Everyone sing along with the refrain, Lisa Reinertson, guitar]

*Refrain:* Goodbye to my Juan, goodbye Rosalita,  
Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria,  
You won't have a name when you ride the big airplane,  
All they will call you will be deportees.

## WELCOME TO LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY

Steve Young, M.C.

Mayor Elizabeth Patterson

## SOUND BITES...

### Definitions and Opinions (*readers*)

- An asylum seeker is someone who has fled their home in search of safety and formally applied for legal protection in another country. Providing protection to people fleeing in search of refuge is one of humanity's most longstanding traditions – a shared value embedded in many religious and cultural traditions, and now part of international law.
- Expressing grave objections to an immigration policy which has forced them to violate international law, U.S. asylum officers filed a federal court brief demanding an end to President Donald Trump's so-called "Remain in Mexico" policy under which asylum seekers have been turned away at the U.S.-Mexico border. Ordering people who are exercising their legal right to seek asylum to turn back and endure a months-long or

years-long wait for their applications to be processed is "fundamentally contrary to the moral fabric of our nation and our international and domestic legal obligations."

- *From Twitter on July 3, 2019:* "If immigrants are unhappy with the conditions in detention centers.. Just tell them not to come. Our border patrol people are not hospital workers, doctors or nurses...many of these illegal aliens are living far better now than where they came from."
- Families escaping gang violence and persecution in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador have undertaken a dangerous journey to seek safety in the United States. People arriving at the U.S. border have the right to request asylum without being criminalized, turned back, or separated from their children. The "lock 'em up" approach to asylum seekers is contrary to common sense and our fundamental values. In America, liberty should be the norm for everyone—and detention the last resort.

### **COMMENTS FROM OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Mike Thompson, U.S. House of Representatives

Bill Dodd, State Senate

Tim Grayson, State Assembly

Monica Brown, Solano County Board of Supervisors

### **CRISIS AT THE BORDER**

"A Long Way From Home"—Poem by Mary Susan Gast

Seeking Justice and Humane Treatment for Refugees

- Cecilia Flores, Catholic Charities
- Bonnie Hamilton, Pediatrician
- Miriam Sammartino, Catholic Charities
- Mina Diaz, Diaz & Loera Centro Latino
- Maria Ordonez, VIDAS—Volunteer Immigration Defense Advocates
- Will Baker, Solano County Rapid Response Network
- Dolores Huerta Foundation

*...continued >>*

## THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

Chorus: This land is your land, this land is my land,  
From California to the New York island;  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,  
I saw above me that endless skyway:  
I saw below me that golden valley:  
This land was made for you and me.

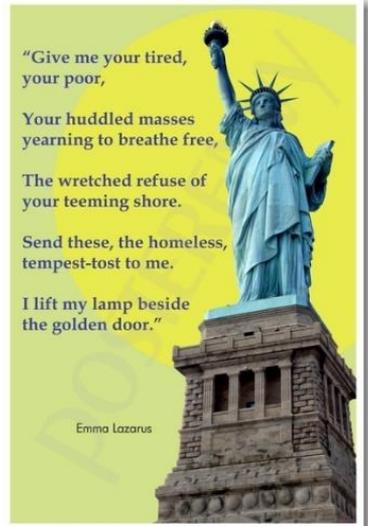
[Chorus]

No big high wall can ever stop me;  
Indigenous people never divided this land,  
Thousands of years without a border,  
This land was made for you and me.

[Chorus]

Nobody living will ever stop us,  
As we go walking that freedom highway;  
Nobody living can ever make us turn back  
This land was made for you and me.

[Chorus]



## LET AMERICA BE AMERICA AGAIN

From Langston Hughes' Poem, 1935

Let America be America again.  
Let it be the dream it used to be.  
(America never was America to me.)

**Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—  
Let it be that great strong land of love  
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme  
That any soul be crushed by one above.**

(It never was America to me.)

**Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?  
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?**

I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,

**I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.**

I am the red man driven from the land,

**I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—**

And finding only the same old stupid plan  
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak.

**O, let America be America again—  
The land that never has been yet—  
And yet must be—the land where everyone is free.**

O, yes,

I say it plain,

**America never was  
America to me,**

And yet I swear this oath—

**America will be!**

Out of the rack and ruin of  
our gangster death,  
The rape and rot of graft, and  
stealth, and lies,  
We, the people, must  
redeem



**The land, the mines, the plants, the rivers.**

**The mountains and the endless plain—**

All, all the stretch of these great green states—

**And make America again!**

## LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY

Singing...

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

We got the light of freedom, we're gonna let it shine . . .

All around the world, we're gonna let it shine . . .

Candle Lighting

Moment of Silence

Depart Carrying the Light of Freedom, Hope, and Compassion.



**Sponsored by:**

Lights for Liberty—Sherry Vinson, Benicia Contact

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