



Elizabeth Rhea <erhea@cluella.org>

CORRECTED: A Thanksgiving Prayer for your Dinner Table and Post-Election News: Just & Sacred Vol. 1, No. 9

Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE <jklein@cluejustice.org>
To: erhea@cluella.org

Tue, Nov 22, 2016 at 1:49 PM



"An overseer must be above reproach,...sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money."

δεῖ οὖν τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἀνεπίλημπτον εἶναι μῖς γυναικὸς ἄνδρα νηφάλιον σώφρονα κόσμιον φιλόξενον διδασκτικὸν μὴ πάροινον μὴ πλήκτην ἀλλὰ ἐπιεικῆ ἄμαχον ἀφιλάργυρον

- 1 Timothy 3:2-3

Dear Friend,

Two weeks ago, I was driving back from Nevada, having taken a day off work to advocate for candidates that share my values. As it became more and more evident that one political party would take control of all Branches of the federal government, my nine year-old daughter called me, with breathless cries of fear and terror, because of the campaign threats presented by our new Commander in Chief. What could I say to her? It really IS that scary. So many of the people, places, and things we have fought to protect are now in danger, despite our state's clear mandate for a different Presidential outcome. We have so much to mourn.

And yet...

- All but two of CLUE's local ballot measure positions overwhelmingly succeeded (two major exceptions being abolition of the Death Penalty and Prop 61)
- Four women of color are now US Senators
- A xenophobic Sheriff was ousted from Arizona
- Los Angeles County elected two women, changing that body from three men to four women, and
- Orange County showed tremendous changes due in large part to a growing Latino electorate.

As we reflect on the immense losses and the notable victories, it is time to move past our mourning and to take action. CLUE will continue to hone in on local worker justice struggles in our communities. We will also continue to fight corporate greed in major chains such as Walmart, along with anti-worker assaults such as LA's upcoming "Neighborhood Integrity Initiative" (Measure NII - March ballot). We'll do this like we always have: through both proven and

innovative organizing methods and loud proclamations of what is just and what is right. This has been our twenty-year approach, and it continues to inform our vision for worker justice moving forward.

Below are a few important actions for you to consider. Thank you for your hearts and commitment to economic justice for all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, capability, or religion. With that in mind, our friends at the OUR Walmart Campaign offer this special blessing for recitation at your Thanksgiving Table (we contributed to the liturgy; all of OUR Walmart's materials for Thanksgiving and Black Friday can be found [here](#)):

Spirit of Life/Most Divine/God/Beloved Community/Creator,

We give thanks. We give thanks for those of us gathered at table. We give thanks to those who bring us this day our food. We give thanks for the food farmers and workers collected. We give thanks for the hands who helped set this table: factory workers, construction workers, truck drivers, mechanics, stock people, cashiers, managers.

This Black Friday, we remember that we are not replaceable, we are priceless. We remember community and compassion can see us through the coming winter, storms and tribulations. We remember we are blessed to have each other after ages of struggle.

Optional Paragraph: You are a God of compassion and justice, Who has taught us to pursue a more just and sacred society, built upon foundations of fairness and love. As we enjoy this delicious meal surrounded by loved ones and dear friends, we turn our hearts inward to You this Thanksgiving, Oh God, with thanks for the blessings you have bestowed upon us, so evident here on this special day.

And we lift up Walmart workers and other low-wage workers in our nation all days but especially tonight and tomorrow as they claim their voice. We join our voice to theirs; they remind us of all that we are and all that we fight for. We give them our thanks, our love, and our support.

Amen

We at CLUE are honored to work alongside you toward a more just and sacred society, even and especially in this moment when we need it most.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,



Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE



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ACTION ITEM: Accompany Walmart Workers This Thanksgiving and Black Friday



This Friday is the height of our national shopping season. It's an especially stressful time in workers' ongoing struggle for the respect of their basic rights. How can we stand in solidarity with Wal-Mart associates during the chaos of the holiday season?

[>> Read More >>](#)

In Case You Missed It: Top News From Last Week

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to get the latest CLUE news as it emerges!

300 Clergy & Community Leaders Gather to Answer the Question, "What's Next?"



Last Sunday, CLUE and other groups hosted a progressive gathering to plan, strategize, and move forward with a positive agenda. In this initial brainstorming session, the audience named 80 issues at stake after the election results, along with 86 strategies for meeting these threats!

To participate in future events, let Rabbi Klein know you are interested in being added to WeThePeopleResist@googlegroups.com. Include your name, contact info for others who should be invited into this work, what you would like to contribute, and the best way to reach you.

[>> Read More >>](#)

Oppose Trump's Terrible Appointee Considerations



Last week, CLUE's board and staff issued a [bold statement](#) in opposition to Trump's appointment of Steve Bannon, who "has a history of hatred toward many, especially women, LGBT people, and Jews, who now feel less safe due to the President-elect's appointment." Since then, Trump has named career racist Jeff Sessions as possible Attorney General. Now, we invite you to join us in voicing our dissent, a critical first step in our strategic opposition.

[>> Sign the SPLC Petition >>](#)

[>> Sign the MoveOn Petition >>](#)

[>> Sign the IWJ Petition >>](#)

Santa Monica Hotel Housekeepers Vote to Form a Union

Housekeepers of the JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot Hotel gathered outside the Santa Monica City Hall on November 16th to celebrate their victory. These brave workers voted 27 to 15 to form a Union with UNITE HERE Local 11 just the day before.

[>> Read More >>](#)

Catalog of Election Victories

This election, CLUE invited you to vote "from the bottom up," focusing on the local issues that so directly affect our communities. By and large, the outcome of California's down-ballot races were positive and encouraging! While grieving a major loss with the death penalty measures (Prop 62 to abolish it failed; Prop 66 to expedite it succeeded) and a lost opportunity to lower prescription drug prices (Prop 61), we also celebrate the following victories:

State

- **51 - YES** to universal support to address school infrastructure
- **52 - YES** to fees on hospitals
- **53 - NO** to anti-development, anti-worker measure that will undermine construction
- **54 - YES** to government transparency (with some unclear consequences)

- **55 - YES** to continue progressive income-tax-based funding for schools
- **56 - YES** to generating millions of new dollars to address healthcare needs generated by addictive tobacco
- **57 - YES** to reforms that combat mass incarceration
- **58 - YES** to undoing Proposition 227 (1998!), give access to bilingual education, celebrate our state's diversity
- **59 - YES** to putting CA on record as opposing Citizens United, which has damaged our democracy
- **63 - YES** to Gavin Newsom's commonsense gun legislation to register ammunition and close loopholes for safe neighborhoods
- **64 - YES** to decriminalizing marijuana
- **65 - NO** to curbing plastic bags when we should be eliminating them (Vote Yes on Prop 67 Instead)
- **67 - YES** to a plastic bag ban that will clear up our waterways and roadsides

Los Angeles County

- **A - YES** on extending the county income stream to protect our parks
- **M - YES** to keeping Los Angeles moving through public transit infrastructure
- **CC - YES** to building better community college campuses

Los Angeles City

- **HHH - YES** to housing and help for the homeless and at-risk!
- **JJJ - YES** to good infrastructure jobs in LA County
- **SSS - YES** to better pensions for airport peace officers

Santa Monica City

- **LV - NO** to stifling development through NIMBYism
- **GS & GSH - YES** to low-income housing funds for Santa Monica

<http://www.cluejustice.org/>

CLUE: Building a Just and Sacred Society · 464 Lucas Ave, Suite 202, Los Angeles, CA 90017, United States

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You can also keep up with Rabbi Jonathan Klein, CLUE on [Twitter](#).