



Nebraskans for Peace

# Nebraska Report

*There is no Peace without Justice*

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022  
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# MALCOLM X

## Induction to the Hall of Fame: Celebrate with Action

by Nature Medicine Song Villegas, AA  
(Intersectional Liaison w/ Stand In For  
Nebraska/Restorative Justice Warrior,  
Reentry/Peer Support Specialist/ Healing  
Circle Facilitator/ Artist-Writer/Mentor)

So often we are mesmerized by society's romantic versions of our realities that we lose sight of what is really happening around us. I have scribbled notes and thoughts on this for so long, my heart raced with excitement and anticipation when gifted this opportunity. An opportunity to have an honest conversation. A conversation about celebration, symbolism, and what moving forward truly looks and sounds like.

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THE GROTESQUE LOOK ON  
HER FACE AT EVERY MENTION  
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UPON STOLEN LANDS.**

Nebraska took the initiative to place thought into restoration when it comes to this year's finalist into the induction of the Nebraska Hall of Fame. Our very own El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, or as many know him, Malcolm X. I was one of many that showed up to put some respect on his name. Respect that the entire world already recognizes. This comes as no surprise though, because putting respect and black man in the same sentence is something Nebraska has always struggled with. In fact, our entire country struggles with this still in 2022.

In celebration, we must not be blinded by the glitter. There were many before us that started this journey that are not with us today. Not only are they not here today, they stood before the voting board to get Malcolm X inducted into the hall of fame not once but twice before this third time being the charm. This third time took us taking their torch and continuing the marathon they started. Showing the importance of our seeds and just how far out they grow.

I continue to reflect on the views and comments made by a particular board

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**Nebraskans for Peace's state office in Lincoln is located on land that formerly belonged to the Otoe Tribe.**

## Nebraska Report

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# MALCOLM X, CONTINUED

member, "Malcolm didn't claim Nebraska." I couldn't help but notice her disgust every time she spoke of Malcolm X. Her facial said everything Nebraska sweeps under the 'good life' rug. The truth is, Nebraska didn't claim Malcolm, hence why we have collectively over the decades been boots to ground to demand the respect he deserves. Also, to tell the truth about the KKK running his family out of their home and off their land. See, while Nebraska keeps their picture-perfect imagery and symbolism, those of us that are surviving this life and that which Malcolm X spoke up against so courageously aren't sweeping anything but truth to the surface from here on out.

Truth is something we struggle with when it jeopardizes looking less than kind and all the great qualities we like to believe we hold. This being true to us as individuals and as a community and nation. However, that same truth is what is missing in the narrative change, the accountability process and the healing and restoration process. It is bitter sweet that individuals that have yet to own Nebraska's not so good life history are the same ones in the seats that continue to decide our fate based on the same fears that put us in this fate in the first place. That is another day and another conversation.

They say truth hurts but I want to challenge that and say that truth only hurts when we defy it and manipulate it to cater to a less than honorable narrative. Truth has the power to heal. If hearing the truth about Nebraska, and the chasing out of a family by the KKK doesn't sit right with you, good because it shouldn't. That is STILL happening today, just in ways upgraded with the times. In order to do the work that our brother paved the way on, we must first acknowledge the truth of Nebraska's history. History only repeats itself if we let it. History should also allow us to know better so we can do better.

I sat in Malcolm's truest words every time I traveled to speak at a hearing to remind myself to stay focused despite the symbolic versions around me. I couldn't unhear the uneducated and hate wrapped comments by above mentioned board member. I couldn't help but notice the grotesque look upon her face at every mention of Malcolm X. All I could see is how these same looks are the ones my people and I get on a daily, as though we aren't all so comfortable upon stolen lands. I traveled with Ms. Schmeeka from the Malcolm X Foundation to a rural town and had yet another experience of a sun down town. We stopped at a gas station and they barely wanted to serve us. They made it clear they were here to make us anything but welcomed or comfortable. I will never forget that long stretch to the interstate in what I call 'driving the green mile'. I am sure we held our breath the whole way with our warrior instincts on high alert. Yes, right here in the 'The Good Life' Nebraska.

This experience really highlighted to me how engulfed we are in symbolism. It took the confetti right out of this experience

# There is HOPE

## Congress Passed Good Climate Legislation

*by Mark Welsch—Citizens' Climate Lobby Volunteer and NFP Omaha Coordinator*

As our current congressional session nears its end, Congress has passed an amazing assortment of climate legislation that will improve our world. We are suddenly on track to lower CO2 emissions by 40% from 2005 levels by 2030. But more reductions are needed to protect Nebraska from the increasing risks of heat, storms, and flooding along Nebraska's many rivers.

Encouragingly, during the 117th Congress, 75% of the critical climate policy that passed succeeded with bipartisan support. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, passed in November 2021, included more than \$150 billion in funding for clean energy, green jobs, and provisions to make U.S. communities more resilient to extreme weather events. The bipartisan CHIPS act in August 2022 invested billions in efforts to expand zero-carbon technology.

In September, the Senate voted to ratify the international Kigali Amendment to reduce the powerful climate pollutants we call hydrofluorocarbons, with support from both sides of the aisle.

While the Inflation Reduction Act, which contains incentives and provisions to slow climate change, passed via the partisan budget reconciliation process, it is important to note that it contained provisions that would likely get Republican support through regular order—including credits for hydrogen, wind, and solar.

The election results have shown an even greater need for bipartisan cooperation to pass better bills to stop the climate crisis. We need to urge our members of Congress to focus on solutions that will reduce the CO2 emissions into the air.

There is more work to be done. This past year's barrage of climate legislation did not fully accomplish the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. Work must continue to ensure the electrical grid can fully utilize green energy. If the action of this Congress becomes a trend, our future looks bright.

Nebraska is poised to have considerable investments in clean energy jobs in wind and solar energy. Nebraska is the Saudi Arabia of wind with the third-best wind power potential of all states. When those facilities are built, they will provide property tax relief to taxpayers.

They will provide us with lower-cost power that will help reduce our energy bills. We need to lower the CO2 emissions to mitigate the threat of continuing the current extreme droughts, wildfires, floods, and heat waves in Nebraska.

Although this highly productive Congress is running out of time, some bipartisan climate bills could be passed before the end of the year or reintroduced early next year. The Growing Climate Solutions Act, co-introduced by Nebraska's Republican Rep. Don

Bacon and Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), will help farmers, ranchers and foresters understand and access carbon markets to reduce emissions boost farm income.

We need to continue to push for the passage of such bills. Congress must keep good legislation on the table. Until we can ensure a livable world for our grandchildren, more work must be done.

Our efforts to build political will on climate solutions flow from the insight that every legislator requires the engagement of all of us to move forward. While our political world seems partisan and immovable, the best results come from meeting people where they are, finding common ground, and believing in our power to enact change. In the words of Frank LaMere, "Nothing changes unless somebody is made to feel uncomfortable. Nothing changes unless you make yourself uncomfortable."

You can make yourself uncomfortable and very effective by helping NFP and CCL urge our elected officials to be bipartisan on climate change legislation. Just go here and sign up to join the Monthly Calling Campaign at [cclusa.org/mcc](https://cclusa.org/mcc). You will get one—and only one—monthly email or text message (your choice) with a link with information to help you make your call.

Your future great-grandchildren will thank you for the action you take today!

# DEGROWTH: Connecting the Dots

by Anthony T. Fiscella

What does it mean to connect global concerns locally about sustainability? As discussed in the previous issue's introduction, the degrowth movement builds on the basic premises of personal health, sharing community wealth equitably, global ecological sustainability, detaching societal aspirations from the ideology of economic expansion, and developing new means of measuring national welfare and happiness. Connecting the dots can vary greatly depending on which dots we consider worthy of recognition. For example, imagine two societies, one vegan and one based heavily on animal exploitation for clothes and food and, all other things equal, we want to measure the respective levels of happiness of their members. Our results would turn entirely on whether we included animals as members of those societies and we developed means to measure their happiness. A study that did not include animals as factors would suggest that both societies had the same level of happiness. A study that did include animals would potentially show one society retaining a certain level of happiness while the other society, dependent upon animal exploitation, would show a high degree of misery and suffering for the average member of that society. Similarly, a country with a high Gross National Product (GDP) can correlate to a high degree of environmental destruction and/or elevated rates of depression yet, unless we include those dots, we can neither measure nor adequately address them. Degrowth advocates do not aim to reduce all forms of economic activity—only the ones that we need the least and which do the most harm, often the type of ecological and psychic harms that reigning economic theories dismiss as “externalities”. By highlighting the “dots” that we all need (such as clean air, clean water, fertile soil, functioning transportation, safe communities, peace, and justice), we can construct means to understand and develop genuine sustainability.

Let's take one example: the military-

industrial complex. The very nature of this industry demands the use of the materials produced to continue serving as a viable economic venture with foreseeable profits. Like many industries, the capture and processing of raw materials as well as the production and transportation processes levy a significant toll on ecosystems through habitat destruction, emissions, toxic byproducts, and so on. Yet, unlike many other industries (such as food, furniture, or fabrics), the actual use of military products often exacts a much heavier toll on ecosystems, during training and exercises but especially during war. Unless we not only measure but attribute a high value to currently low-prioritized factors such as animals, eco-systems, and even human psychic welfare, they will remain ignored and marginalized and, as a consequence, we will retain an economic system that regards the military-industrial complex as a viable—even desirable aspect of any given nation-state.

Major General Smedley Butler of the U.S. Marine Corps, who described himself regretfully as “a gangster for capitalism” also saw the specter of massive war on the horizon as early as 1933 (Branagan 2013: 38). He bemoaned the obvious build-up toward yet another devastating war:

*War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, and surely the most vicious. [...] A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of people. Only a small “inside” group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war, a few people make huge fortunes.*

*[The upcoming war] might well cost us tens of billions of dollars, hundreds of thousands of lives of Americans, and many more hundreds of thousands of physically maimed and mentally unbalanced men. Of course, for this loss, there would be a compensating profit—fortunes would be made. Millions and billions of*

*dollars would be piled up. By a few. Munitions makers. Bankers. Ship builders. Manufacturers. Meat packers. Speculators. They would fare well. Yes, they are getting ready for another war. Why shouldn't they? It pays high dividends.*

This is a refreshingly honest general's account, yet it also displayed two subtle but striking limitations of his analysis that emphasize his point:

1. He foresaw the coming war in Europe (WWII) as costing hundreds of thousands of lives when, in fact, between 1937 and 1945 the war itself resulted in approximately 12 million dead for the “losers” of the war (Japan, Germany, and Italy) and more than five times as many killed among the “victors” (Soviet Union, France, UK, US, China, and others): approximately 61 million people killed. These figures do not include the millions of lives killed during the Holocaust whose horrors lay hidden amidst the fog of war. In other words, General Butler grossly underestimated the devastating cost to human life of the next “racket”.
2. He did not even imagine or calculate the tremendous cost that war exacts upon animals and ecosystems. Even in one small country during a rhetorical “war against a virus”, Denmark's government sought to alleviate the spread of the coronavirus by killing 17 million mink on hundreds of Danish mink farms. When human lives have little value, animal lives tend to have none. Likewise regarding ecosystems.

The Eurocentric “world” war of 1914-1918 killed almost a million horses during or after the conflict. Destroying an opposing group's natural habitats and vital infrastructure remains a key part of war whether in the days of Genghis Khan and Napoleon or more recent times such as the U.S. devastation of Vietnam with Agent Orange (wiping out 14% of South Vietnam's forests) or Russian forces currently destroying Ukrainian bridges and power plants. Even the mere preparation for war seems to have contributed significantly to

deforestation as countries use vital resources to build and maintain a military force. The world's largest oil spill as of 2013 took place in Kuwait during the U.S. war against Iraq in which Iraqi forces intentionally released between 4 and 8 million barrels of oil into the Persian Gulf and set 700 well heads on fire. These caused tremendous damage to local wildlife and habitats but remain largely forgotten footnotes of history if even (Branagan 2013: 10-11). "Climate change" has garnered significant attention recently (but this does not apply to all ecological crises such as biodiversity loss, topsoil depletion, animal suffering, or plastic pollution which receive comparatively little attention). Yet, even so, corporate and government responses remain insufficient and even when they aspire toward more ambitious goals, they still fail to connect the dots.

We can think of general responses to current eco-crises in terms of a spectrum between two poles. On one side, we have "eco-modernism" which lauds technological solutions, economic growth, and scientific innovations as key tools. On the other side, we have degrowth advocates who insist on abolishing the perpetual growth model and re-thinking and re-structuring our entire economic system to make our trade, production, and consumption compatible with the limits of Earth's ecosystems rather than the other way around.

To conceptualize this spectrum, we can begin with two Nebraskans. First, we have Frank Zybach (1894-1980) from Columbus, Nebraska. Zybach invented the center-pivot irrigation system in the 1940s and 50s which would eventually transform agricultural production across the world. By 2013, 57,000 farms had begun using it in the U.S. for 28 million acres making his invention the most popular irrigation technology on the market. Among other countries using Zybach's invention, we see the world's leading oil producer: Saudi Arabia. There, the government and industry have built enormous pivot-irrigation systems to turn their desert green and bring food production closer to home. It seems like a success story for "green technology".

In the second case, we have Jay Forrester (1918-2016) from Anselmo, Nebraska. Discussion about limiting economic growth for the sake of nature and sustainability

entered the public sphere in tandem with the influential study and book *Limits to Growth* (1972). Forrester, a pioneer in systems theory, designed the computer simulations that underwrote the basis for *Limits to Growth* (which focused on simulating the growth or decline of five factors: population, capital, food, nonrenewable resources, and pollution). Neither Forrester nor the *Limits* authors advocated degrowth (as did their contemporary scholar and economist Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen). Yet they raised an essential issue regarding the critical dilemma that accompanies unfettered economic growth.

However, neither of these cases offers viable degrowth models. Saudi Arabia may have made good use of Zybach's irrigation system but it cannot change the limits of its nature: Saudi agriculture in the last several decades now seems to have used up four-fifths of its aquifers. Technological development can only get us so far. In a world run by economics placing profit as the top priority, even a seemingly endless array of new "green tech" will continue to ignore natural limits and public welfare while speeding us toward ecological systemic collapse in many regions near and far. Similarly, with the successes Forrester's work received and while the *Limits to Growth* predictions have held largely true (if somewhat behind schedule), their prescriptions for remedies seem to fall short. They overestimated the significance of addressing population growth and they underestimated the significance of racism. They still placed faith in technological development and capitalist accumulation while leaving little space for Native models.

We may turn to other Nebraskans, such as the Pawnee, for an example more in line with degrowth. Gene Weltfish, a European American anthropologist, described early observations of the Pawnee as follows: "They were a well-disciplined people, maintaining public order under many trying circumstances. And yet they had none of the power mechanisms that we consider essential to a well-ordered life. No orders were ever issued. Time after time I tried to find a case of orders given, and there were

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# Peace through Advocacy

by Maggie Ballard  
NFP Vice President

In the weeks leading up to the election, I cringed each time I opened my mailbox. I inherited Senator Wendy DeBoer as my Senator after the redistricting following the 2020 census. I liked Brett Lindstrom, my previous Senator, but I loved Wendy DeBoer. Wendy had always responded to my phone calls and emails I made for the legislative work I do at my day job. And when I say always—I mean always. I had planned to run for state senate myself until I found out I would be running against the person I had the most face time and connection within the Unicameral. So instead of running against her, I volunteered for her re-election campaign. It seemed like anyone could get on board with this moderate Democrat.

But as I reached into my mailbox, I pulled out one postcard warning me that Wendy was dangerous because she was “anti-life.” (Not pro-choice. Not even pro-abortion. But anti-life.) Another postcard warned that Wendy sucked up my tax dollars but didn’t show up to vote often enough one year. And another informed me that two things in life were certain:

1. Death.
2. That Liberal Wendy DeBoer would always vote to raise my taxes.

I sighed. “Way to take things out of context,” I thought to myself about the postcard makers. I know that most Nebraskans do not want the government to determine whether I should be forced to carry a pregnancy to term. Still, when you put a picture of scalpels and surgery tools in the background of a postcard where someone is labeled “anti-life,” I worry that some Nebraskans won’t be able to decipher fact from alternative facts. To my relief and delight, Wendy did win re-election. But

the nastygrams I received daily leading up to November 8th made one thing clear: Nebraska truly needs peace.

Nebraskans For Peace is notorious for promoting and demanding peace between the United States and other countries worldwide. Our mission statement expresses that we work for peace with justice through our political action. If it has not been clear before, let me be clear now: Local elections create the most significant impact on our daily lives. They may not be the most exciting or attention-grabbing, but we are called to complete our civic duty and vote in each election. Too many Americans fought for the right to do what so many of us now take for granted. But make no mistake: our duty is not done after turning in our ballots.

Nebraska is the only state in the U.S.A. to have a Unicameral. This means that instead of having a Senate and a House of Representatives, we only have the Senate. Each of us makes up the “second house,” which means that we are responsible for weighing in on bills and sharing our ideas with our policymakers. We would like to summarize some of the issues we have done this with, over the years, and how we go about it:

At the beginning of each legislative session, we review the hundreds of bills that are introduced for that session. We try to narrow down that list to about 20 bills that match our priorities—generally focusing on the issues of civil rights, economic equity, voting fairness, and environmental issues. There are always more bills that fit into those categories than we have time to focus on, so we carefully monitor many more than 20 bills, and our list will shift around as the session progresses. We try to keep our board, members, and friends updated on what bills we are watching when those

bills have legislative hearing dates and then if the bill is or is not voted out of committee onto the floor for the entire legislature to debate. We also testify (and get others to testify) at these bill hearings, in person, or at least as submitted written testimony to the committee.

We have successfully made strides on a wide variety of issues from anti-bullying in Nebraska schools; requiring students to complete course work in financial literacy; requiring the Nebraska State Patrol to complete a study and institute policies to address missing and endangered Native women and girls. We instituted a program that allows schools to purchase food directly from local producers; increasing awareness and training to stop human trafficking; allowing formerly incarcerated individuals a fair chance for employment by easing restrictions on professional licensing, and “banning the box” on employment applications. We also worked to end the death penalty in Nebraska, which was later overturned by the voters. As advocates, we have successfully pushed back on some proposed legislation that would harm Nebraskans, such as restrictions on voting, regressive tax policies, and cutting benefits to children, families, and low-income individuals.

We focus primarily on the Nebraska legislature in our advocacy work. We can make more of a difference by reaching out to our state representatives than our leaders in Washington. January will bring a new legislative session, many new senators, and plenty of opportunities to bring Nebraskans For Peace’s influence to the table. Please keep an eye out on social media and our website for information on our Lobbying Day, when Tessa Foreman and Maggie Ballard will explain more in-depth how to reach out to your senator, how to become involved, and how to be that peace we need in our state.

# Civil War

## The Local Groups that Make MAGA Possible

### Part II of the Series

by Paul A. Olson

For a Trump-style insurrectionist party to have much power in Nebraska, it would have to control more than the GOP-Underwood-style party elites mentioned in my last article. It would have to have foot soldiers that believed in white supremacy and the need to use violence to create a theocratic realm. More people are active in the MAGA movement than those in the MAGA sector leadership of the Republican party or those who follow Brandon Straka, the Omaha activist who heads the #Walkaway Campaign to get liberals to join the Trump movement. This man was arrested for his activities at the Capitol on January 6 and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in the Capitol riot. There is plenty of evidence that White Supremacists are active here in our state and organizing. The Southern Poverty Law Center lists the following Nebraska groups as dedicated to a white racist ideology: Folks Front/Folkish Resistance Movement (Neo-Nazi); MSR Productions (Hate Music); Patriot Front (White Nationalist); Proud Boys (General Hate); Third Reich Books (Neo-Nazi); and National Socialist German Workers Party (Neo-Nazi). In addition, Oath Keepers have been active.

According to a brilliant UNO student senior thesis on hate groups in Nebraska (Grant Van Robays, *Hate in the Heartland: Examining Hate Groups in Nebraska's Past and Present*, 2022), these groups have the following ideologies and activities:

**1. Folkish Resistance Movement:** Van Robays account of FRM is as follows: "According to FRM... [o]nly "white people of good stock may be members of the nation." The movement's symbol is the swastika." The swastika apparently represents the very existence of the white people and the struggle for their existence... The requirements to become a member of FRM aren't overly burdensome. One must be at least 18 years old, able-bodied, male, of White European descent, from the U.S. or Canada, willing to perform activism, not have issues with substance abuse, and agree with the 14 points..." "These are White Supremacist points. The FRM propaganda includes a flyer that says, "Break Debt Slavery,

'White Lives Matter, Resist Zionism,' and 'Blood and Soil,' each of which are common in the neo-Nazi, anti-Jewish, and white supremacy scene." FRM's activity is a new and small organization with pamphleteering across Nebraska.

**2. MSR:** This hate music and paraphernalia company is in Nebraska and headed by a man named David Daboll. Van Robays says, "While the company did operate in Wheat Ridge, [Colorado], from the early 2000s until at least 2016, it now appears Van Robays operates the business from either his home base in Hershey, [Nebraska], or at MSR headquarters in Omaha or Gering. In the 1980s, Van Robays started MSR Productions as a white nationalist music label, where he created hate music under the name Lightning Rod. However, the company now sells flags, shirts, beanies, DVDs, stickers, and even gift certificates."

**3. Patriotic Front:** The Patriotic

Front is a group derived from an earlier neo-Nazi group. It substitutes patriotic symbols for swastikas and appeals to white pride and fear of the other. As Van Robays recounts, "The group from 2020 distributed flyers in York, Grand Island, Omaha, Kimball, Hastings, North Platte, Scottsbluff, and Chadron. ... The content of these flyers/posters included the 'America First' slogan, as well as new messages such as 'One nation against invasion,' 'Revolution is tradition,' 'For the nation, against the state,' 'Reclaim America,' and 'Reject poison.' The poison referenced here likely means the COVID vaccine, though it could mean anything that the supposed tyrant state pushes upon the masses. The other messages blur the line between being patriotic and advocating for revolution. One could argue that these flyers cross that line. And while incidents include mere words and not violent action, these messages can still cultivate a hateful and malignant ideology that can be used to justify discrimination and militancy against the outgroup or government."

**4. Proud Boys:** The Proud Boys are known nationally for their role in the January 6 insurrection. Ironically, though, they attacked the police in Washington, and they have appeared at "Support the Police" rallies in Nebraska. As Van Robays remarks, "The story of the Proud Boys in Nebraska does not end at that Back the Blue rally (i.e., the Support the Police Rally here). At this rally, a spokesperson for the Omaha Police Department claimed to have not heard of the Nebraska chapter of the Proud Boys. This could mean

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# What's HOT in Global Warming?

by Professor Bruce E. Johansen

## Climatic Gut Punches

Since the age of six or so, I have been an avid weather watcher, fascinated by clouds and storms, rain and snow, how weather systems come and go, moving with my siblings and parents halfway around the world (Dad was a senior officer in the U.S. Coast Guard; one might be surprised just how many places that the Coast Guard



has bases). The onset of the monsoon in the Philippines with its dark, fat-bellied clouds, was a sight to behold, and not unlike a Puerto Rican tropical storm. The suburbs of Washington, D.C. sometimes received heavy snow and ice storms, as well as awesome thunderstorms. I also love shoveling snow and chipping ice. I relished watching the first cirrus tendrils of a snowstorm or thunderstorm move in

from the southwest. I had a special hill with a wonderful view of the incipient inclemency.

Dad negotiated with the bureaucracy and got me on the subscription list for the U.S. Weather Bureau's daily weather map, which folded out to about three feet by two, the tool that real weather forecasters used. I wanted to be a weather forecaster until I discovered that most of their time

### Dancing Out a Broken Window

Following Ph.D. work at the University of Washington, the time came to find my professorial working location. A major qualification for adult life in Omaha, as I saw it, was real weather: thunderstorms, and the occasional tornado (as long as it wasn't too close). Nature has kept its promise to me over the last 40 years. Deluges, droughts, snow and ice, bit-

*All of this (and more, for anyone who wants to do some research) indicates that "global warming" is clearly (and unfortunately) global.*

was spent indoors, in offices, with clacking teletype machines. Watching the sky from suburban hills had gone out of fashion among the professionals. The Weather Bureau had put me on its mailing list, although I didn't have a Ph.D., didn't teach at a university, and didn't broadcast weather from a TV or radio station. They snuck my name onto the list because I was a little kid who was very interested in the weather.

ter cold snaps and stifling heat waves all have captured my sense of wonder, and danger. An F-1 tornado rolled over a house that our family owns a few miles east of Omaha as my stepson Shannon was folding laundry. He watched a load, previously folded, rise and wildly dance, so it seemed, out a broken window.

For anyone who wants to keep an eye on developing climate all over the world, much of it from space photographs, today there is no source



better than NASA's Earth Observatory, which pops into my email inbox once a week. Weather observation has come a long way since the U.S. Weather Bureau's paper maps.

### Nightmares from Space Pictures

Sixty years ago, global warming or climate change was not a term used in meteorologists' working vocabularies. Extreme weather used to be part of an inviolate cycle pattern that produced a record event now and then, before returning to average. Now, more often than not, NASA hits me with a climatic gut punch. In June of 2022, the Earth Observatory sent me a satellite image of the Central Andes with accompanying text that has world-wide implications.

### Melting Andes Glaciers: The New Normal

The central Andes are usually covered with snow and ice year-round for much of the summer. For viewers, the bright blanket of pristine snow is beautiful, as well as a reassurance that what seems like an eternal pattern enduring. The fresh snow also reflects

light, contributing to its continuance.

"This year," read the text, "extreme heat removed those protective blankets from the mountaintops, creating the conditions for rapid melting of glaciers. 'Bare glaciers melt faster because the lack of snow cover exposes ice that is darker and typically plastered with dirt, dust, and debris that absorbs more heat,' explained Nichols College glaciologist Mauri Pelto. 'When glaciers lose their snowpack, they're much more vulnerable.'"

Under the old "normal," snow on the mountains, some of which are more than two miles high, receded slowly, with glaciers remaining mostly covered through mid-summer, according to the NASA Earth Observatory. During the summer of 2022, however, a massive heatwave eroded the snowpack early. Temperatures rose to as high as 40 degrees C. (104 F.), as newly bare darker surface accelerated melting of snow and ice even faster, "Unfortunately for these glaciers, the heatwave came early in the summer," said Pelto. "The ice was sitting out there without sunscreen for

two-and-a-half months until snows arrived again in late March." Decades of satellite monitoring indicate [that] these glaciers are retreating, said the Earth Observatory. The terminus of the Cortaderal glacier, for instance, has retreated by 1,300 meters (almost a mile) since 2014.

### Not a One-time Climatic Freak Show

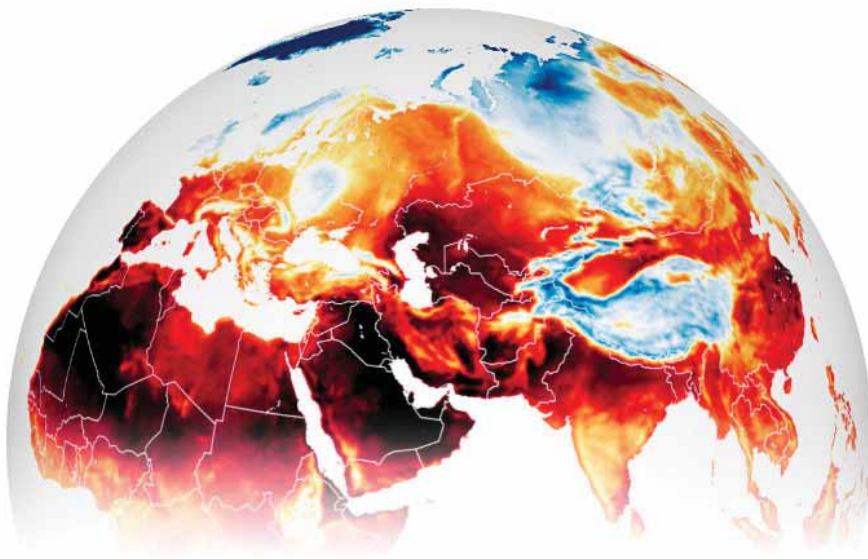
Now for the gut punch. The super-swift snowmelt in the Andes is not a one-time climatic freak show. As NASA reported, "Extreme summer heatwaves like this are becoming more intense and frequent in South America and other parts of the world as climate changes.

*Science Advances* (early in 2022), said that: "Western North America experienced a record-breaking heat wave outside the distribution of previously observed temperatures. While it is clear that the event was extreme, it is not obvious whether other areas in the world have also experienced events so far outside their natural variability."

One other gut-punch that NASA delivered in late June, 2021 was a high temperature of 108 F. in usually misty and cool Seattle, Washington. To indicate just how unusual that was, bear in mind that the average late-June high in Seattle is about 72 degrees. A high of 108 in Seattle was equal to about 124 degrees in Omaha at the same time of year. The most popular weather joke there used to be expression of a fervent hope that summer would come on a Saturday.

"Glaciers are simply not compat-

*conclusion on page 11*



# NFP Helps Children and Adults in Gaza

It is a pleasure to report about Nebraskans for Peace—Palestinian Rights Task Force's recent Potluck Fundraiser for Gaza! The weather was cold and windy the evening of November 10th in Omaha. The fellowship hall at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church at 510 N. 93rd Street was warmed, not just by its heating system, but by the genuine, caring concern on the part of the people in attendance. They came there that night sharing the desire for justice for Palestinians in all areas, especially health care.

Members and guests filled the room numbering around eighty. Attendees' hearts were inspired to give as they sat at tables together, sharing marvelous food choices from the long potluck buffet table. Many of the dishes were homemade Palestinian cuisine from local Palestinian cooks. Conversations were joyful among people appreciating being together again in person for a fundraising event. It was our task force's first such gathering since the beginning of Covid-19.

It was wonderful to have our founder, Anne Else, return to assist with the event details, even though she is retired. She taught me a lot. It was a group production. Thanks to all who worked before, during, and after the event. Everyone joined in the cleanup!

We were blessed to meet Pastor Kathy Gerking several years ago when St. Timothy's Lutheran Church hosted Mr. Daoud Nassar, whose family owns the Tent of Nations on a hill above Bethlehem. Her church was a perfect location for this event. St. Timothy's Lutheran Church became our host and first sponsor. Three other sponsors followed: the Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee of the Missouri River Valley Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Holy Land Task Force of the Great



Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Omaha Friends (Quaker) Meeting.

The evening's announcement of the total donations was proof of the generosity of those who attended. Before the event, donations of over \$5,750 had already come in by U.S. Mail and Internet giving. After the evening's cash, checks, and raffle funds were added, the amount had grown to \$12,000. On November 17th, when the checks were dispersed to the two organizations, the total had grown to \$13,375.

Augusta Victoria Hospital was sent \$6,435. The Palestinian Children's Relief Fund was sent \$6,940. Each donor indicated how their donations were to be split between the two organizations or given to one or the other alone.

We carefully selected those funds, Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem and the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund. Both are highly needed medical providers for the people of Gaza. We were fortunate to have speakers from each group who were part of the organizations.

They inspired us that evening. Our Palestinian American emcee for the evening, Batoul, was ready to go with PCRf on its next mission after hearing Dr. Angela Hanna speak to us in person! Reverend Mark Brown's description of the dedication of the medical staff at Augusta Victoria Hospital's separate hotel for Palestinian patients certainly touched my heart and others via his Zoom presentation.

Following the prayer at the start of our dinner offered by Rev. Keith Nelson, Raghda, another Palestinian American member of our group, spoke to us about her appreciation for Americans who travel to Palestine, and then dedicate themselves to working for Palestinian human rights. She also spoke of the frustration many Palestinians have about not being able to go back to their homeland even though they have house keys in their possession. She then shared her desire to help children in her job as a School Principal at the mosque.

As people first entered St. Timothy's, they filled out their nametags and were offered the option to purchase raffle tickets. The raffle prize sat on the table at the entrance. The raffle prize was a hand-woven basket from Palestine filled with six bottles of Zatoun Olive Oil and

# What's HOT, conclusion

## MALCOLM X CONCLUSION

ible with recurring heatwaves, and the intensity and frequency of these is increasing,” Pelto wrote. “This year, for the 34th consecutive year, alpine glacier volume will decline.”

### 106 Degrees in Buenos Aires

The heat waves in the Southern Hemisphere were not confined to the Central Andes. In Western Australia, during mid-January 2022, temperatures rose to more than 50°C (122°F) and a town north of Perth tied for the hottest temperature ever measured in the Southern Hemisphere. At about the same time, according to Argentina’s National Meteorological Service (SMN), ground stations in Buenos Aires recorded a temperature of 41.1°C (106°F) on January 11. That’s the city’s second-hottest day on record. Elsewhere in Argentina, temperatures in Córdoba and Punta Indio climbed above 41°C. The same heat wave also extended northward

into Paraguay and Uruguay. Crops, in the entire area, such as soybeans and corn already were suffering from extended, scorching drought.

All of this (and more, for anyone who wants to do some research) indicates that “global warming” is clearly (and unfortunately) global.

### SOURCES

Heat Waves in the Southern Hemisphere. NASA Earth Observatory. January 11, 2022.

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149331/southern-hemisphere-scorchers>

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<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149969/losing-a-layer-of-protection>

*Dr. Johansen taught journalism, environmentalism, and Native American Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha from 1982 to 2019, when he retired as emeritus, with 55 books.*

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## Gaza, conclusion

three packages of Zatoun Za’atar from the hills of Palestine (thyme, roasted sesame seeds, and sea salt.) These items are fair-trade products coming from Palestine farmers. They were a gift to us to use as the raffle prize from the Palestinian Canadian owner of Zatoun, Robert Mas-soud. The youngest child at the dinner got to draw the raffle ticket out of the box with a big smile, and the lucky winner, Karima, went home delighted!

Our task force has Zatoun olive oil available for fair-trade sales in the Omaha area all year round. Just call 402-578-5729. The bottles with 750 ml are \$25.

The herbs are \$6 in 5.3 oz bags. They make great holiday gifts, and the funds go directly back to Palestinian farmers — we make no profit.

If you want to learn more or join one of our meetings, send an email to Sandie Hanna at [hanna7@cox.net](mailto:hanna7@cox.net).

Sincerely yours,  
Sandie Hanna  
Leadership Team Chairperson, NFP  
Palestinian Rights Task Force (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NFPPalestinianRightsTaskForce/>)

for me. I noticed the Indigenous flags in the State Capital and we are so proud of that. Yet, I am arm and arm with Niskithe Prayer camp to protect inipi lands while Nebraska sues them and fights to build on sacred lands. Stolen lands. I see statues all over Lincoln that cater to a narrative that is most appealing for the narrator and less for those actually living through this, or having lived through it. In lieu of actually changing the narrative and righting wrongs we are offered flag space and statues. Our missing and murdered women and relatives are unaccounted for and will never see the news arena that Caucasian missing people receive. Our police departments, justice systems, community facilities, and educational systems continue to contribute to a pipeline to prison and the criminalization of being poor or nonwhite. Instead of Nebraska taking the same accountability it requires, we are offered symbolized “change”.

While many shout and dance with glee, I am heavy hearted with these realities and more. I can’t bask in symbolism when I drive by Zachery Bearheels billboard every day. When I wake up and 22 years later, Ernest Jackson is STILL in prison even though it’s been said by our state senators that they know he is innocent. I can’t celebrate when our police departments that are here to protect and serve are killing us. I refuse to celebrate when I and all other women of all ages bodily autonomy is on the legislative table. I refuse to celebrate our genocide. We are not safe. We are not heard. Until that changes it is going to take more than a flag, a photo with a representative, or a statue to convince me.

To truly celebrate our brother El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, Malcolm X we must go beyond scratching the surface & walk the talk. Do you have his integrity within you to do so?

# Civil War, continued

that the local Proud Boys kept a low profile, were too insignificant to warrant police attention, or perhaps could indicate a police oversight. As Janelle Corr points out in a post from the left-wing Nebraska publication Seeing Red, “[A] handful of Proud Boys met at a bar in Omaha on a recruiting stop in 2018, where they were photographed brandishing the ‘OK’ hand sign that can be used to represent white power or just troll liberals (2020). This article indicates that at least some members of the Proud Boys were known of in public. The Proud Boys’ freedoms were on display later in 2020, as members draped a Proud Boys sign on the bridge over Dodge Street, as photographed by an Omaha citizen. This display occurred in October 2020, after Trump’s ‘Stand back and stand by’ message to the Proud Boys.” Though the Proud Boys have been recruiting in Nebraska, no public media outlets have estimated their size.

**5. Third Reich Books (Neo-Nazi); National Socialist German Workers Party (Neo-Nazi):** These organizations are run by the perdurable Gary Lauck. They are dedicated to publishing neo-Nazi propaganda to be sent all over America and to other countries. The organizations do not organize much in Nebraska. His group distributed some flyers in Omaha in 2019, but the influence of this publicity junk fuels the worldwide neo-Fascist movement. NFP has covered Lauck’s activities for decades.

**6. Oath Keepers:** In addition, the leader of Nebraska Oath Keepers and Oath Keepers in the Western United States was a Nebraskan, Steve C. Homan.

In a recent month, I wrote a letter to Attorney General Douglas Peterson of Nebraska concerning the activities of the Nebraska Oath Keepers group,

*I do not follow traditional conservatism but prefer it to what is now called conservatism here. For the sake of the common good and the welfare of our state, NFP members need to study these stirrings toward civil strife in our midst and to ask judicial agencies to enforce the laws against hate groups and militias. If we seek peace, we must also seek it at home.*

not included in the SPLC list but very active in the January 6 insurrection: The president of Nebraska Oath Keepers has been Steven C Homan, a USMC Vietnam Veteran. He was also Western states’ vice president. It is unclear what Mr. Homan’s role in Oath Keepers is since he has apparently chosen to go inactive. In an interview in *The Atlantic* magazine, he is described as follows: When I called him (Steven C. Homan), he recounted how he’d focused on recruiting people with military skills (to Oath Keepers) while trying not to draw too much attention. He weeded out the “wild hats.” He wanted people willing and able to “slug back” against the government if necessary but levelheaded enough not

to start the fight. He referred to them as “quiet patriots,” his version of the militant right’s Gray Man trope, a silent majority that will come to his side in a conflict.

The web has Mr. Homan participating in the Bundy ranch standoff (<https://www.splcenter.org/hate-watch/2014/05/02/militiamen-and-oath-keepers-drew-weapons-threatened-kill-each-other>) and other Oath Keepers activities such as its work intensifying the Ferguson, Missouri riots. He claims responsibility for the Oath Keepers Fort Leavenworth billboard urging revolt with the slogan “The Tea Party is Not the Enemy,” ostensibly calling for revolt by the soldiers at the fort near there.

Mr. Homans disappears as the president of Nebraska Oath Keepers, apparently to be replaced by Kenneth Hall by 2017. Hall is a musician who performs “patriotic” music and claims to be no longer associated with the leadership of Oath Keepers. But in 2017, he claimed to be “regional director for Nebraska Oath Keepers region 6.” Though Oath Keepers denies that it is a racist group, arguments have appeared that it is covertly a white supremacist group (<https://surface.syr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1897&context=etd>). Earlier in this decade, Kevin Gleason, a firearms instructor, indicated that he had “planned and instituted the Nebraska Oath Keepers Community Preparedness Team (CPT) plan in accordance with the national organization’s concept, resulting in the actual creation of active teams throughout the state.” One cannot be sure what this means in an organization given to secrecy and violent action. Still, it does not sound auspicious, and the national organization’s description of such teams sounds remarkably like they are the militia.

The most recent note I can find about Oath Keepers’ activity in Ne-

# Civil War, conclusion

Nebraska is a statement that Nebraska is seeking to collect a \$9,300 judgment against the Oath Keepers in the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court in Lancaster County District Court for failure to pay worker's compensation on a salary of \$36,500 in 2021 wages. Apparently, Oathkeeper's hired employees in the state though my sources do not give a name.

I did not receive a reply from Atty. General Peterson, and I do not know whether Oath Keepers and other violent White Supremacist groups in this state are under police examination. The Nebraska Constitution (1, section 17) forbids private militias, and Nebraska Statute 28-110 against hate group's intimidation says,

*A person in the State of Nebraska has the right to live free from violence, or intimidation by threat of violence, committed against his or her person or the destruction or vandalism of, or intimidation by threat of destruction or vandalism of, his or her property regardless of his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.*

My view is that Nebraska has not adequately enforced its constitution or its laws in area of militias and threat of violence.

This piece is based entirely on material about extremist organizing that is found on the web. One can only speculate how much more is on the dark web or known to police agencies. It is clear that racist, anti-government organizations are organizing in Nebraska, some of them armed, and that hate groups and militias are not condoned by Nebraska law. They call themselves conservative groups, but they are not conservative. Traditional conservatism grew out of Edmund Burke's opposition to the violence and extremism of the French Revolution and his desire for democratic reform rather than revolution. Traditional conservatism respects history, institutional wisdom accumulated over decades, truth, and the understanding derived from experience in the political arena. Anthony Quinton, a significant conservative thinker of our century and student of Burke, has defined conservatism as follows:

*[P]olitical wisdom...is not to be found*

*in the theoretical speculations of isolated thinkers but in the historically accumulated social experience of the [whole] community...[in] traditional customs and institutions [and people with] extensive practical experience of politics. (The Politics of Imperfection, 1978: 16-17)*

The Nebraska MAGA people and the White Supremacist organizations of our state are not conservative in respecting historically accumulated social experience or practical experience in politics. They are, as many of them claim, revolutionaries on behalf of a flag, not ours—treason's Confederate flag or Trump's thin blue line flag supposedly supporting the police but practicing violence against them. I do not follow traditional conservatism but prefer it to what is now called conservatism here. For the sake of the common good and the welfare of our state, Nebraskans for Peace members need to study these stirrings toward civil strife in our midst and to ask judicial agencies to enforce the laws against hate groups and militias. If we seek peace, we must also seek it at home.

# Degrowth, conclusion

none" (Forbes 2011: 114). As with many other Native cultures, Pawnee society exemplified egalitarian traits, a general commitment to collective welfare (including animals and habitats), and a worldview that saw people as embedded with nature rather than separate from it. As Native scholar Jack Forbes wrote, Natives, have long since known the meaning and centrality of limits, whereas European colonialism swept in a systemic that disregarded them: "Brutality knows no boundaries. Greed knows no limits. Perversion knows no borders. Arrogance knows no frontiers. Deceit knows no edges." Forbes continued: "If I lose the air, I die. If I lose the sun, I die. If I lose the plants and animals, I die. For all of these things are more a part of me, more

essential to my being, than is that which I call 'my body. We don't stop at our eyes, we don't begin at our skin."

In this spirit, degrowth advocates imagine a new means of calculating value that, unlike our current economic system, connects the dots between personal health, ecological health, and sustainable production/consumption. Degrowth advocates do not reject technological development, nor do they oppose the increase of certain types of trade, but they do call upon all of us to conceptualize different types of technology.

Instead of solely thinking of technology

as something material and produced by industry, we can place our faith and energy in psychological and social technologies (ranging from meditation and mediation to wealth distribution and minimizing mandatory work hours) and, in doing so, bring the production and consumption of those much closer to home. This means connecting global, regional, and local dots, connecting various species and various challenges. This means organizing here and now for an economic world that fits human, animal, and ecological needs right where we live. One step, one paw, one garden at a time.

# HARD TRUTH, conclusion

many who knew her, I embraced Rose's organizing principle and have made it my own: Find your friends. Hold hands. Keep moving forward.

In Mike's essay, *The Science of Evil*, he unpacks the catastrophic failure of empathy which defines the sociopathic personality according to a broad consensus of psychologists after decades of rigorous study. Mike explains empathy, its enormous significance in human development and the rise of civilization, the two kinds of empathy—reactive and learned (or cognitive)—and how we can effectively deal with individuals who lack empathy to minimize the damage they inflict on the rest of us.

The need for this discussion is the rise of Trump, Putin, and the like. For more information, I encourage you to explore the work of Bill Eddy, LCSW, JD, who published *Why We Elect Narcissists and Sociopaths, and How We Can Stop!* in 2019.

#

## The Science of Evil

by Mike Meile

I want to talk to my fellow Citizens of Earth about the second most important scientific discovery in human history. In one sense, it is a very old discovery; in another sense, it is only about 30 years old. Yet this discovery has the power to help us to understand—and confront—some of the most intractable problems of the 21st century and beyond. It is knowledge every person above the age of 10 should have and use.

I'll begin with some questions. If Lev Tolstoy were alive today, would he be able to talk Vladimir Putin out

of committing genocide in Ukraine? Would Mahatma Gandhi be able to convince Narendra Modi that his hatred of Moslems is unbecoming a good Hindu? Would Lao Tze or the Buddha be able to redirect the power hunger of Xi Jinping? Would the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. be able to cool down the rage in the hearts of MAGA Republicans? And what does a dog say when she barks?

This last question may seem like a non-sequitur, but keep reading. We all know what a dog says when she barks at a stranger: "Hate you! Hate you! My turf! My pack! Hate you!" Dogs have an admirable bluntness of expression: they say what they mean and mean what they say. They can't come up with philosophical or political justifications for their rage—all a dog knows of the world is the pack and its territory, and anything beyond these is The Other: The Enemy. This is not because of some flaw in dog consciousness; dogs have evolved to confront the Other with violence, and violence is their only option.

Not so human beings. We evolved in the Great Rift Valley of Africa, surrounded by the deadliest terrestrial predators on the planet and without the strength, speed, muscle, teeth, or claws to defend ourselves against them. Like dogs, we found salvation in the group; unlike dogs, our groups are societies, not packs. Packs are kept together by fear of the alpha, the leader who obtains their position through brute force. Societies are held together by empathy—the master survival strategy of *Homo sapiens*.

And thus, we come to the second-greatest scientific discovery in the history of our species. For thousands of

years, we have struggled to understand people like Putin, Xi, Modi, Bolsonaro, or MT Greene—or Stalin, Hitler, or Jenghis Khan—or Manson, Bundy, or CC Holmes—or the Parkland shooter, the Uvalde shooter, the Sandyhook shooter . . . the list seems endless. How could these creatures do what they did? How could society have permitted them to go so far? Why can't we seem to stop the endless parade of tragedies that are otherwise known as the march of history? Satan may or may not exist—and no debate can

***Packs are kept together by fear of the alpha, the leader who obtains their position through brute force. Societies are held together by empathy—the master survival strategy of *Homo sapiens*.***

resolve the issue—but we need no longer invoke demonic powers as we shake our heads in disbelief, sigh in resignation, or cry out in horror. There is a way to understand and confront the horrors embodied in Putin, Manson, or That Bad Man (aka #45). There is now a Science of Evil for the first time in history.

The first thing science does is define its field of interest. The Science of Evil has as its subject an evidence-based, logic-driven analysis of evil. And evil, simply stated, is the loss of empathy. All humans get angry, feel jealousy and lust, and can experience hatred. But ordinarily, these feelings dissipate with time and can

be tempered by empathy. You may wish to say something harsh to a friend, yet knowing that this will cause them pain, you hold your tongue—this is empathy at work. Empathy is the ability to build a mental map of someone else's experience and predict how something will affect them. And more: it is the ability to feel what others are feeling. Imagine you see a dog hit by a car: even just imagining this makes many people (not just dog lovers) cringe. It hurts! For a split second, you are the dog, feeling her pain as if it were your own. Mental modeling of the Other is cognitive empathy, whereas the feeling caused by witnessing another's suffering is reactive empathy. The former is under some degree of conscious control; the latter is instinctive and automatic, an emotional reflex.

Both kinds of empathy develop as specific brain areas develop during early childhood. For example, the superior temporal sulcus—the part of the brain that allows us to track another person's eye movements—becomes active within 24 hours of birth. Mind you, the ability to track motion with both eyes (conjugate eye-movement) is not fully functional until three days after delivery: your brain is ready to gaze into someone else's eyes before your own eyes can do so. The superior temporal sulcus is just one part of the empathy circuit, a specific, highly organized regions of the human brain that are active whenever we use our powers of empathy to make sense of the world around us.

What happens when empathy doesn't develop as it should? Loss of cognitive empathy leads to the social deficits found in the various forms of autism. A person on the autism spectrum has trouble navigating social situations: they have difficulty in relationships, can't make "small talk," find

it hard to express feelings, and so on. However, people on the spectrum can learn to manage social interactions and may compensate for their social deficits by developing unique talents: many of the most accomplished mathematicians, for example, are on the spectrum; so is Noam Chomsky. In and of itself, autism is not a threat to society. On the other hand, the loss of reactive empathy is a disaster for everyone. A person lacking reactive empathy is trapped in the cage of ego, unable to understand (or care) why it is wrong to harm others. Such a person may have the intellectual capacity to use cognitive empathy; indeed, they may show remarkable insight into others' desires and fears. But without reactive empathy, they become Machiavellian manipulators, cold-heartedly using others for personal gain with no regard for the consequences. We need only look at Putin, Xi, Modi, or That Bad Man in the light of the Science of Evil to understand how profoundly impaired they are and how profoundly dangerous the loss of reactive empathy can be. Read their words, listen to their speeches, and realize these "people" are nothing more than barking dogs: their damaged empathy circuits have turned them into animals. Worse than animals—psychopaths. Beneath their every word and deed lies a bottomless well of hatred. Their brains are damaged, and we don't know how to heal them.

Not yet.

So how do we humans confront the Inhumans in our midst? In his book *The Gift of Fear*, Gavin De Becker recommends putting them on ICE: we must identify them, contain them, and finally expel them from society. Easier said than done, but we can at the least learn to spot the psychopaths in our lives and call them out. We can con-

front the MAGA maniacs on Twitter and respond: "Bark. Bark. Bark." No, they won't understand (or care), but this response tells the non-MAGA maniacs that their feelings are valid and that it's time to disengage emotionally from those who only wish harm. It's time to stop the hand-wringing and moaning "uncivil" discourse and start to harden ourselves against the inevitable assaults on our freedom and dignity. Ukraine can't negotiate with Putin—if you tell a psychopath "no," he must kill, and Ukraine told him no; he'll stop at nothing less than genocide unless the rest of the world puts a foot down (and his generals remove him). With our would-be alpha, we've already learned that there is no "end-game"—the end is pure destruction.

It will take a collective effort more significant than the global effort to eradicate smallpox to put the dictators, mass murderers, and psychopaths on ICE. But now, for the first time in history, we understand where such creatures come from and have a faint glimmer of hope that we can deal with them. We have the second-greatest scientific discovery in history: the Science of Evil.

Every human being above the age of 10 must learn and apply the lessons of this science if we are to survive into the 22nd century, and beyond. And what is the most significant discovery in history? It is, of course, the Science of Good. And what does this science teach us? No less than a way to prevent people from becoming monsters in the first place. And we all know the way and have from the moment we're born. It's called

**Love! Your! Children!**

**There is no greater knowledge.  
For all knowledge is based on this.**

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# HARD TRUTH

by Sally Herrin

## The Science of Evil

Once again, I am sharing my platform in the *Nebraska Report* with an important local voice. Michael Meile is one of my oldest and dearest friends—so trusted that I asked him to help my husband and I raise our son. Mike is an accomplished literary and linguistic scholar, an autodidact, an author of speculative fiction, and a longtime employee of Lincoln's member-owned cooperative grocery,

Open Harvest.

Mike's mother, the late great Rose Meile, would have been known to many older members of Nebraskans for Peace. Mike's sister Jolene was born with Down's Syndrome at a time when such children were routinely institutionalized (i.e., warehoused) and died young, out of sight of most of our society, and out

of mind. Rose refused, raised Jolene with siblings Mike, Dave, and Jill, and grew into a champion for families raising special needs children. She was active for many years in the ARC of Nebraska (Association of Retarded Citizens). She lobbied tirelessly for humane public policy based on her understanding that the best way to support people with special needs was by serving their families. Like