



Fisherman's
Wharf

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Mobile Program App

The WSSA is introducing a new, mobile, version of its conference program at the WSSA 2017 Conference.

During pre-registration, attendees have the option to choose either the traditional printed program or access to the real-time online application, produced by the same publisher as the printed program, but updated with changes to locations, additions and deletions from panels, and other alterations as they happen.



Viewing the Journal

Membership in the Western Social Science Association includes a subscription to *The Social Science Journal*. Members have always received their printed copy of the *Journal* at the address they gave when registering for the conference or paying annual dues.

Members will continue to receive their printed copies, as usual. However, our publisher, Elsevier, gives members another option.

Members can log into Elsevier's website and view *The Social Science Journal* for free, using their Western Social Science Association member ID number.

Now you can read the *Journal* on your laptop, tablet, or smart phone, wherever you are.

Your member ID number is the registration ID number that was on your online receipt when you preregistered for the last conference.

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Membership years begin on April 1 of each calendar year and end on March 31 of the following year.

WSSA NEWS

2016 - 2017

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WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION is a professional educational organization committed to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship, service, and collegiality. The Association's mission is to foster professional study, to advance research, and to promote the teaching of social science. Founded in 1958 as the Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, WSSA draws on scholars and others in some 30 disciplines, or "sections," from across the United States, and around the world; convenes an annual conference; conducts research competitions for faculty and students; and publishes *The Social Science Journal*, a juried, quarterly research journal, and WSSA News, the Association's newsletter, four times a year. WSSA annual membership dues are included in the annual conference registration. For those who will not be joining us at the conference, but would still like to be voting members and to receive the publications, subscription only memberships can be purchased from our website. Prices are \$45 (individual); \$60 (includes spouse); \$35 (student); \$30 (retired). For further information, contact Larry Gould, Executive Director, WSSA, 2307 Chof Trail, Flagstaff, AZ 86005, phone: 928-606-2248, e-mail: larry.gould@nau.edu
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Featured Article

“BOTH SMALL AND GREAT”:

THE VISION OF THE WORLD IN POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL LETTER

by William Schaniel
University of West Georgia (retired)



Papal Encyclicals are not normally material that are considered interesting or innovative. Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” is an exception.

The central issue of “Laudato Si” is the environmental degradation of nature. In developing this, Pope Francis develops a comprehensive model that integrates science, social science with theology and is the basis for new policy proposals.

This article explores that model, paraphrasing Pope Francis’ own words.

As with any model, there are assumptions or givens that underpin the analysis. The critical assumption for Pope Francis’ analysis is the Catholic concept of the “unique dignity” that humans have been endowed with by God (43). This term is defined in the context of use throughout the encyclical.

The unique part of human endowment is the authority over nature and other living creatures God has given to man (90). That endowment is not for exploitation, but for stewardship for current and future generations (26, 91).

Another important characteristic of human dignity is that “the rich and the poor have equal dignity” because all men are equal in the eyes of God (94). In a policy context, the fulfillment of human

dignity requires actions based on human rights and vocation. The rights include a right to water (30), to life (43) and to happiness (43). Additionally, the goal of steady employment must have priority to fulfill man’s “vocation to work” (128).

The concept of human dignity embodies the theological grounding of Pope Francis’ model. God created man in his image and has given man dominion over earth (67). The first 5 books of the Old Testament (also known as the 5 Books of Moses) dwell on the relationships humans have with other creatures, with each other, and with the earth (66, 70). The stories of Genesis demonstrate the obligations that man has to God to reach fulfillment through one’s actions toward other humans, towards the earth, and towards the creatures inhabiting earth (67, 70, 71). Man’s dominion over earth does not mean that man has a divine right to destroy nature or have absolute domination over all other creatures. All creatures were also created with their own “perfection and goodness” (69). The dominion over the earth and its creatures given to man is an obligation to protect and preserve. Protecting and preserving is not a restriction on using nature, but a limit where “each community can take from the bounty of Earth whatever is needed for subsistence” (67). The planet is a shared inheritance to benefit everyone and thus is a common good (23, 156). Any act of cruelty towards any creature is contrary to human dignity (92). Finally, since all humans have equal dignity (94), no single individual

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WSSA 59th Annual Conference Program Overview

San Francisco, California, USA

April 12th --Wednesday

WSSA Executive Council Meeting
7:30am to 4:00pm

Conference Registration
3:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit
3:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

WSSA Welcoming Reception
All Attendees Invited
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

April 13th --Thursday

Conference Registration
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Coffee Break
9:15 a.m.

Coffee Break
2:30 p.m.

April 14th -- Friday

Association Breakfast
& WSSA Give-Back
7:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
& Poster Session
7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
All Attendees Invited

Conference Registration
7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Coffee Break
9:15 a.m.

Presidential Luncheon
& Emerging Scholar Awards
WSSA President
Michèle Companion
Ticketed Event
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Coffee Break
2:30 p.m.

WSSA Business Meeting
4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Section Coordinators Meeting
*All Current Coordinators Are **Required to Attend***
5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Section Coordinators Training
*All **New** Coordinators Are **Required to Attend***
5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

April 15th --Saturday

Conference Registration
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Publishers' Book Exhibit
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WSSA Executive Council Meeting
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Concurrent Panel Sessions
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Coffee Break
9:15 a.m.

Coffee Break
9:15 a.m.

President's Reception
& Awards Ceremony
All Attendees Invited
Music and Refreshments
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Information regarding special events and Section business meetings may be found in the conference program, online, on the Conferences page of our web-site

<http://www.WSSAweb.com/>

I'M THE GREATEST

by Debra Andrist
Sam Houston State University



Like Muhammed Ali, I'm the greatest!

According to (some of) my students, I may not physically dance like a butterfly or sting like a bee, but it has been said that I can dance around opposing concepts as I foster critical thinking in decision-making and/or that I can offer stinging-sarcastic entertaining humor.

But, NO, like Dracula, I'm the worst of evil incarnate! According to (some of) my students, I may not literally bite necks, but it has been said that I plan assignments meant to suck the lifeblood from my students' time and efforts.

Another point, I conduct classes (almost entirely, with lots of body language and synonyms and cognates, and maybe a few exceptions) in a target language--which is judged a wonderful opportunity for developing language skills by some—OR, it's the most counter-productive and cruelly-thoughtless taunting imaginable for those students simply trying to make it through my class.

And, so it goes, one after the other, of these diametrically-opposed evaluations by "some of my students" who have been, semester after semester, in the very same class at the very same time.

Though I have always believed in, and constantly encouraged, ongoing feedback from students as useful for my teaching and planning purposes, though I always diligently read the statistics, and especially the comments, via my IDEA, or whichever is the current platform, for end-of-class evaluations by

students, I am unfailingly amazed at how differently students perceive my overtly-expressed intents tied to my thoughtfully-crafted, scientifically-based and logically-supported techniques meant to enhance their experiences and outcomes.

Yet, over years and positions and universities, "my" evaluations are the same—not just not-the-same but reliably totally-divergent. Yet, I do glean useful input from both ends of the spectrum for professional (and sometimes personal) purposes.

However, in agreement with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) policies on student evaluations as helpful professional/personal tools for teachers, I firmly believe that student evaluations are useful as teaching tools for individual teachers themselves and should NOT be used as numerical resources for administrative supervision evaluations of said individuals. I will never be convinced that student evaluations can be "statistically reliable" for the reasons exemplified by the differing and conflicting perceptions detailed, not to mention all sorts of those psychological and sociological factors established as evidence in many studies of student evaluations.

Yet, those same student evaluation statistics are almost universally employed by universities to "evaluate" teaching for salary, tenure and promotion purposes. Over 20 years of being an administrative supervisor myself, I kept my own experiences with student evaluations of my own classes in mind as mitigation when I was required to use my faculty colleagues' teaching evaluation statistics as input on those all-important life and professional decisions for them.

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WSSA Outstanding Emerging Scholars

2017

It is the Western Social Science Association's distinct pleasure to announce the 2017 recipients of the Outstanding Emerging Scholar Awards! The Immediate Past-President of the WSSA, the President, and the President-Elect annually choose to honor a junior faculty member at a United States university who has been active in his or her discipline for less than five years. The awards recognize cutting edge research and substantial contributions to the social sciences, and the strong promise of future such contributions. The recipients receive a cash award, are honored at the Presidential Luncheon, and have an opportunity to present at the conference.

Complete bios of the award winners will be available on the WSSA website and will be presented in a feature in the fall newsletter.



The President's Awardee is **Dr. AJ Faas**, Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University. Dr. Faas' work is internationally-based, focusing on disasters, from an anthropological perspective, and economic issues. For more information on Dr. Faas, please visit his faculty web page: <http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/people/permanent/Faas/index.html>



The President-Elect's Awardee is **Dr. Lauren Balasco**, Department of History, Philosophy, and Social Sciences, Pittsburg State University. Her recent work focuses on transitional justice, the International Criminal Court, and Latin America. For more information on Dr. Balasco's work, please visit her faculty web page: <http://www.pittstate.edu/faculty-staff/lauren-balasco>



The Immediate Past-President's Awardee is **Dr. Subini Annamma**, Department of Special Education, University of Kansas. Dr. Annamma's work critically examines the social construction of race and ability. For more information on Dr. Annamma's work, please visit her faculty web page: <https://specialedu.ku.edu/subini-annamma>

All of our recipients will be presenting papers at the 2017 conference in April. Please look for them in the program to attend their presentations or introduce yourselves to them at the conference! They all do amazing work and are making stellar contributions to the social sciences. Congratulations to our three awardees!

“WHY GEOGRAPHY MATTERS....MORE THAN EVER”

By Christopher Brown
New Mexico State University



Over the last few years, I have indulged in a work place luxury - stepping away from my computer, sitting at a small table in my office, and reading a book that has nothing directly to do with my research or teaching....it is just a book that informs my thinking.

Of late, the book in question is “Why Geography Matters....More Than Ever,” a book that Harm de Blij, a widely-read author who also served as “America’s Geographer for Good Morning America” wrote in 2012 before his untimely death. As I read this very interesting book, I was struck by how de Blij’s argument could help inform my classes and the manner by which I do applied geographic research. In this short essay, I share some thoughts extracted from the book, some data points from colleagues, and a touch of original thinking on the matter at hand. In doing so, I examine three “geographic realities” that help answer the question (at least to me) of “Why Geography Matters....More Than Ever.” Here we go!

Reality Number One - There is a *there* everywhere, and things are where they are for reasons.

I posit that everything worth studying or seriously thinking about exists as a point, line, area or volume located somewhere in space, and for a set of reasons. For centuries, if not millennia, human beings have been making maps on media that range from the walls of caves to primitive parchment to the electrons that make our modern IT devices work. In doing so, we have created a series of very simple (or very complex) spatial models that represent the realities in which we live and the elements that make these realities happen. Through reading these maps, we “know where stuff is,” and this allows us to navigate an increasingly complex world to live our lives. Such spatial models also allow us to answer the question “why is stuff located where it is located?” Things with a positive impact on our lives are located where they are for a set of reasons – cities like Paris with a culture that enriches our lives, fishing grounds that feed our families, and parks where our kids play - all have locations and reasons for

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Future Conferences

2018 San Antonio, Texas – Hyatt Regency
April 4, 2018 through April 7, 2018

2019 San Diego, California – Manchester Grand Hyatt
April 24, 2019 through April 27, 2019

2020 Portland, Oregon -- Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront
April 1, 2020 through April 4, 2020

2021 Albuquerque, New Mexico -- Albuquerque Hyatt Downtown
March 24, 2021 through March 27, 2021

("Both Small and Great . . ." Cont. from page 3)

or community has more or less dominion over earth or the creatures of earth.

Science provides models and data for understanding nature and humans. The consensus of natural scientists has concluded that there is climate change and that man is the source (23). The activities of man have also led to a growing scarcity of fresh drinking water (27-31) and a loss of biodiversity (32- 42). Science and religion must dialogue together. "It cannot be maintained that empirical science provides a complete explanation of life..." (199) Science gives the data for understanding the dimensions of the problem, but wisdom "is not the mere accumulation of data (47). Ethical principles, "in a variety of languages, including religious language" (199) provide direction and context to use and understand the data from science. Given man's dominion over nature, the climate (23) and the natural environment (95) are collective goods that are to be governed and conserved by all and for present and future generations.

To solve the problems of environmental degradation, humanity needs to

solve the problem at its root. The source of the present ecological crisis is the result of human actions. The "technocratic paradigm" (106-114) has become globalized over the past 200 years (53, 102). The technocratic paradigm is "an undifferentiated and one-dimensional paradigm" (106), where profits are the dominate criteria for action (109, 187) and driving the use of technology (102). The paradigm includes allowing "the invisible forces of the market to regulate the economy, and consider their impact on society and nature as collateral damage." (123) "Science and technology are not neutral" (114). The paradigm dominates our use of science and "dominates (modern) economic and political life" (109). The paradigm does not value nature or dignity of man. This devaluing of nature and man has allowed the degradation of the climate, the loss of biodiversity and the growing problem of accessing fresh water. Nature is further degraded by the "throwaway culture" (22, 43) which increases waste and pollution (20, 21). Human dignity is further harmed through the technocratic paradigm by the resulting inequality (48-52), inequalities that

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("I'm the Greatest" Cont. from page 5)

The justification for using such statistics is invariably that there are no alternatives to using them to formulate numerical overviews, though peer evaluations and "statistics" may, or may not, also be considered in such decisions. And, in almost all universities, we do "grade" students, a parallel sort of evaluation, so why not faculty?

However, I have become more and more skeptical of using that to which "there is no alternative" for such important decisions. I might suggest that it's even lazy to rely on those statistics. I do personally know only too well that the 24/7, +, if possible but not probable, time demands upon administrators add up to life-and-mental-health-threatening stress, so resorting to numbers makes some kind of sense in that regard. Even so, I maintain that we CAN find more reliable—and in some cases, humane--ways to evaluate, maybe of our students as well. I call upon each of us, as students, as educators, as employers, as employees, to formally and officially seek and propose alternatives.

("Why Geography Matters" Cont. from page 7)

why they are located where they are. Similarly, things that have a negative impact on our lives - terrorist training camps, the toxic Flint River that poisoned the people of Flint, Michigan, and traffic jams that cost us millions of hours and billions of dollars a year –are also located for specific reasons. Examining the locations of these elements, asking why they are where they are, and understanding the attendant dynamics, allow us to better understand these elements in our lives.

Reality Number Two - Everything is connected to everything else (spatially), and nothing ever stays the same.

With the basic understanding of spatial locations and reasons for these locations in hand, we cannot help but wonder about spatial processes, processes that link various points, lines, areas and volumes together in important ways that impact our lives. By deploying a geographic perspective and using a range of spatial tools, we can now “take things up a notch” and ask and answer important spatio-temporal questions about these processes. How do people, goods and services move about space and time in cities, either in an efficient manner or via gridlock? How did the lead that made so many people sick in Flint, Michigan get into the water, then move through a distribution network and make some people sick, and others not? How and why do jihadists get converted to belief systems that drive them to kill people they have never met, and how do these belief systems move about space in the process we know as diffusion? Spatial processes like these that impact our lives can be examined and understood from a geographic perspective and through the use of spatial tools like maps and models. OK, now what to do with this understanding?

Reality Number Three – No contemporary problem facing humanity on the Blue Marble we call Earth can be solved without understanding “the Geography of the problem at hand.”

It is impossible to read a newspaper or magazine, listen to or watch the news, or tap into an increasingly complex range of IT and social networking tools without being confronted by problems that need to be solved....some right now! The scenarios I have posed and explored above are a microscopic subset of an infinites series of challenges facing societies all around the globe...and every one of these has a location that needs to be understood, and either generates or is impacted by spatial processes that we can map, query, and understand. As an example, I recount a discussion I had with a colleague of mine that studied the Balkan conflicts that unfolded across the Balkan Peninsula after the dissolution of Yugoslavia. My colleague posited to me that the Dayton Map that formed the foundation of the Dayton Accords would have been less problematic and generated less long term conflict if it had been based on transit routes that were managed by different ethnic groups, not the cultural geography that came from more traditional census-generated datasets. We will never know if my colleague was correct, but this discussion highlights to me the value of understanding the “geography of contemporary problems” and the spatial processes that drive them.

Given folks will (I hope!) read this article prior to, or on their way to the 2017 WSSA conference, I invite folks to join me at the conference, share a beverage or break bread, and explore the arguments I share in this article to help further explore, “Why Geography Matters....More Than Ever.”

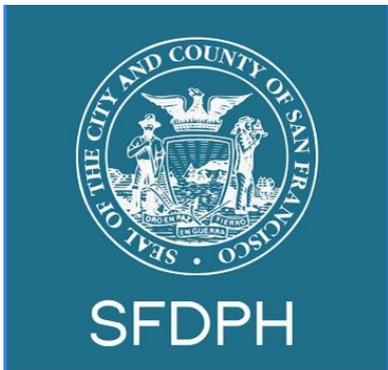
Introducing the 2017 WSSA Spotlight Organization – The Healthy Southeast Coalition

By Christopher Brown
WSSA Vice-President/Secretary



I am very happy to introduce our 2017 WSSA Spotlight Organization, the Healthy Southeast Coalition (Coalition), to our members and friends. For the last 10 years, coalition members and partners have worked together to advance healthy eating and active living (HEAL) in the Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) area of San Francisco. In this article, I share the background of this effort, discuss some of the notable accomplishments of the Coalition, and share some of their ideas for future work.

In 2007, community members in BVHP came together to examine the factors that lead to chronic disease and related health issues. Out of early discussions at the Shape up San Francisco Summit that was held in 2006, a collaboration among community

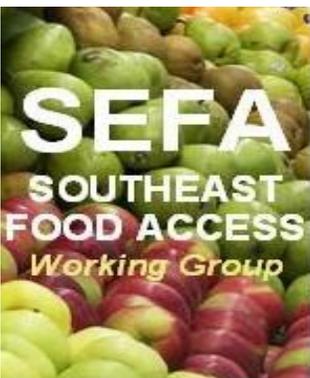


members, interested agency staff, and educators formed a community-based group, Southeast Food Access (SEFA). At its onset, SEFA did not have any formal outside funding. Rather, the early work of SEFA was supported by time and energy contributed by staff members of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPD) and the energy of community members. These people all shared an interest in examining the root causes to chronic disease and related health issues in BVHP, and working to find solutions to the challenges involved.



Bayview Hunters Point

In the early work of SEFA, three pillars of work were articulated to advance healthy eating and active living in the region— better access to healthy food, awareness and education of nutrition issues, and the development of urban agriculture resources by which residents of BVHP could grow their own food. In the early years of their work, SEFA spent much of their time and energy on food access, specifically working to secure retail food outlets by which healthy food could be purchased. These efforts included working to secure a supermarket that would set up shop in the region, and developing a model for converting smaller corner stores into small scale healthy food outlets. This latter work lead to the development of a municipal ordinance that established a framework to support these conversions, including training, development of physical space, and community engagement.



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include inequality of income, (46) and power (51, 52). The poor, who suffer the most from the inequalities of income and power, also suffer from environmental degradation that "exhaust the resources which provide local communities their livelihood" (145).

The first step in a "bold cultural revolution" (114) to solve the degradation of natural ecology and human ecology we need to move beyond the specialization to the appreciation of the whole (110). The fragmentation of knowledge without integration into a broader vision "can actually become a form of ignorance" (138). A successful policy must integrate both the common good of nature and the dignity of man and be global in scope. There must be "one world with a common plan" (164). Pope Francis' approach to policy is not about a universal process to be followed by all, but about who will be involved throughout the process and the outcomes. Each country has unique variations in issues and communities, and thus "there are no uniform recipes" (180). In order to recognize and affirm human dignity the policy process must include all local communities including the poor and indigenous people (144,183). According to Pope Francis the policy process needs be adjusted based on methods that are

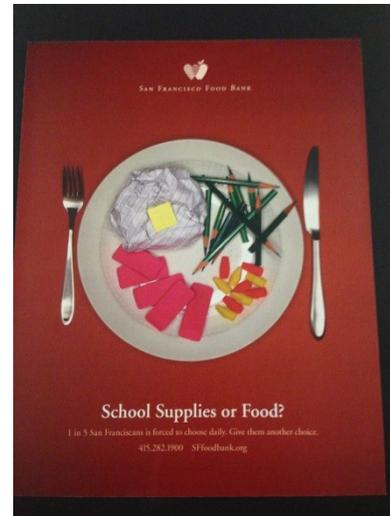
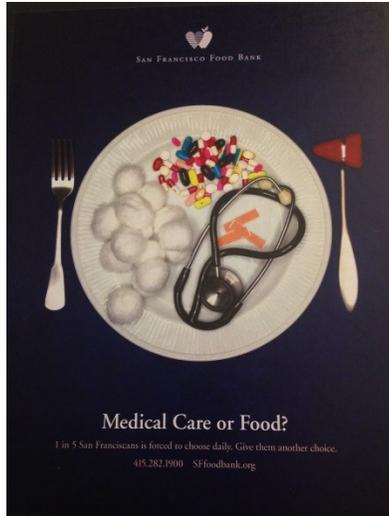
successful while rejecting methods that fail (183, 184). The success or failure of the policy will be judged by its outcomes. There are no proscribed means as the policy process is inclusive. New technology and markets can be part of the process if they are enabled by the local stakeholders (187). The outcome for any method must be consumption that can be "universalized" (50). Pope Francis asserts that in current times the worst affront to human dignity is that "a minority believes that it can consume in a way that cannot be universalized" (50). A successful outcome for any policy is an outcome that is universal. That is, the policy has similar outcomes for everyone affected. The universal outcomes for Pope Francis include steady employment (127) access to fresh water (30), and an end to environmental degradation (145). In implementing policy and working towards universal outcomes those who have benefitted most in the past 200 years have the greatest responsibility (170). Pope Francis argues that growth in the developed world must be reduced so the remainder of the world can grow faster (193).

To summarize, in "Laudato Si" speaks to the increasing environmental degradation over the past 200 years and that it is created by the existing economic, political and social order whose policies are the source of modern global inequality. Radically different new global policies based on human dignity and nature being as a global common good would restore the balance to all things "small and great" (94).

Which Choices Would You Make?

By Michèle Companion

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs



Every day, millions of Americans make difficult choices when confronted with limited income. Do I pay a utility bill or rent or buy food? Do I cut my medication in half or skip it all together to buy food? Do I have to give up my pet? How many meals can I skip without feeling faint?

The challenges posed by low income and lack of access to food supplies goes beyond the quantity of food that people can consume; it also highlights issues of the quality of food that people can eat. In urban food deserts (areas with limited or no access to full service grocery stores or shops that offer a variety of foods including fresh produce), residents are often forced to rely on diets that are cheap, widely available in convenience stores or bodegas, easily portable, and non-perishable. This means a lot of highly processed foods, such as dried Ramen-style foods, rice, pasta, and boxed potatoes. Diets dominated by these foods are high in simple carbohydrates, sodium, sugars, and preservatives and low in protein and fiber. The long term health consequences of this type of diet include type-2 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, weight gain, and other morbidities. As noted in the Spring 2016 *WSSA* Newsletter ([http://www.wssaweb.com/documents/newsletter/Spring_2016_newsletter_\(2\).pdf](http://www.wssaweb.com/documents/newsletter/Spring_2016_newsletter_(2).pdf)), this is particularly problematic for children, as dietary quantity and quality impacts learning outcomes and overall occupational trajectory.

According to the SF-Marin Food Bank, our partner for the annual “WSSA Gives Back” fundraiser, which occurs during the Friday morning poster competition and breakfast every year, one in four residents of San Francisco or Marin County is unable to afford all of the food they need to achieve a basic nutritious diet. They find that 25% of all seniors are food insecure. The high cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area exacerbates unemployment rates and urban food access challenges.

To combat these challenges, the Food Bank has implemented a series of programs to improve food access and food quality. Of the roughly 50 million pounds of food that will be delivered throughout San Francisco and Marin in 2016, more than half of it will be fresh produce direct from the farm. Fresh, seasonal

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produce comes from the California Association of Food Banks' Farm to Family program, which connects growers with local food banks. The wine boxes pictured below, donated by local wineries as part of a massive recycling campaign, are filled with fresh apples! Really. I checked. Because of this connection, the SF-Marín Food Bank is able to support 250 weekly farmers' market-style pantries in schools, supportive housing sites, and community centers to improve fresh food access.



They also have a home-delivery program for home-bound seniors and adults with disabilities through a new partnership with the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). The Food Bank estimates that up to 5,000 low-income seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco have the capacity to cook meals in their own homes but are not physically able to attend a food pantry. The Food Bank's partner agencies and volunteers deliver weekly groceries to recipients identified by DAAS to help participants maintain their independence, quality of life, and self-sufficiency.

The SF-Marín Food Bank is committed to community involvement that extends well beyond delivery of food. They have numerous nutrition education programs to help people maximize their healthy options on a limited budget. Cooking demonstrations in *Pantry to Plate* classes teach participants to cook healthy recipes using Food Bank food, while also learning about basic nutrition. Many cooking demos are customized for particular situations, like living in single room occupancy hotels, where participants may only have a hot plate or microwave rather than a full kitchen.

In other programs, participants prepare food while being introduced to topics such as being savvy about salt and sugar, the importance of eating a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins, and how to shop on a budget. The Food Bank nutrition staff teaches a six-week course that covers nutrition basics, understanding food labels and tips for healthy food preparation. During the Food Smarts Workshop, participants learn how to make healthy choices and simple changes in their diets.

The wonderful cultural mix of a continental city like San Francisco can pose challenges for increasing outreach to a vast clientele, so the food bank offers courses in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and other languages. The Food Bank also tailors its cooking demonstrations to those who have recently moved to San Francisco from other countries. While commonplace in American food culture, vegetables like squash and

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Awareness and education of nutrition issues was the second focus of SEFA's work, with nutrition awareness partners coming to the table, specifically Food Guardian Teams that looked at the structural nature of food systems and worked to help people make better decisions on healthy food choices. They also raised awareness that led to an ordinance that required healthy choices as part of "happy meals." As a parent of kids with an interest in mass marketed fast food, I can certainly appreciate this bold effort that demanded that fast food purveyors provide healthier options for our kids.

Efforts to advance urban agriculture started with a focus on a range of activities to support community gardens where residents of BVHP could grow their own food. In 2014, a formal assessment of what would be needed to advance this goal was undertaken, and results highlighted the need for more resources, ways to share best practices, and support to the community on day to day things needed to advance urban agriculture – tools, security of garden areas, and seed libraries.



In 2011, Kaiser Permanente (KP), through their HEAL Zones Program, awarded a grant to the San Francisco Department of Health that provided much needed capital to hire paid staff to build upon and advance the work of SEFA. From 2011 to 2016, the KP HEAL Zone funding was instrumental in helping SEFA and its partners achieve the accomplishments noted above. With this funding ending in 2016, SEFA partners have begun a dialogue on what the next steps are in advancing HEAL activities in BVHP. Out of these discussions, the Healthy Southeast Coalition has evolved. Coalition partners are presently working to develop a strategy by which the Coalition can best advance their efforts to bring healthy eating and active lifestyles to the residents of the Bayview Hunters Point region in San Francisco.

As I close this piece, I extend a warm invitation to WSSA members and friends to visit with partners of the Healthy Southeast Coalition that will be joining us in San Francisco for the 2017 WSSA conference. I hope to see you there!

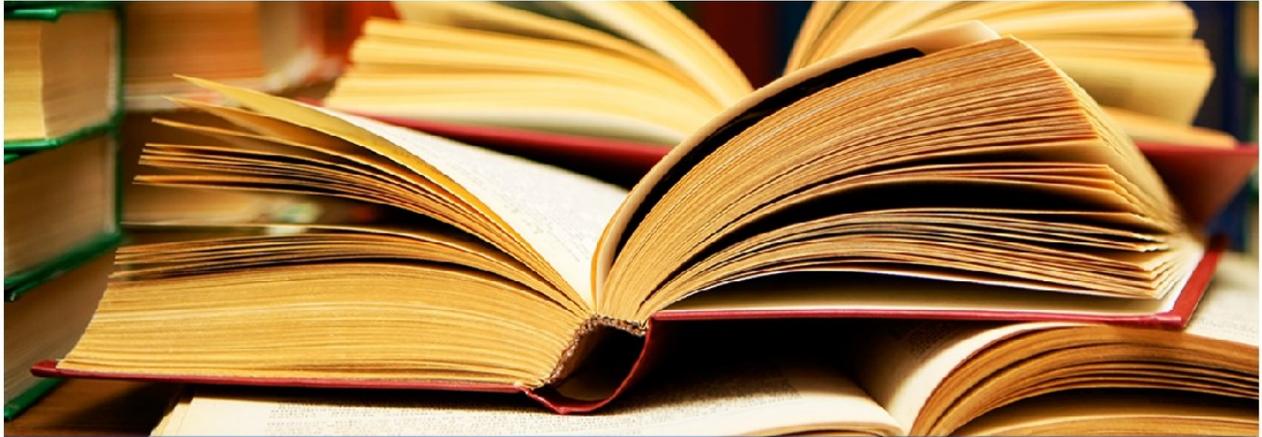
("Which Choices Would You Make?" Cont. from page 13)

potatoes can give international participants pause. For example, during a recent *Pantry to Plate* session, a cooking demonstration was given to more than 80 Chinese speakers through a translator. Written copies of the recipe were also distributed in Chinese.

Want to learn more about our partners at the SF-Marin Food Bank? Check them out on their website



(www.sfmfoodbank.org) and them on Facebook! Make sure that you stop by our table at the Friday breakfast, where you can donate to this registered 501(c)(3) organization, get a receipt, and pick up information. As always, I will be there to greet you! I look forward to seeing you there!



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