

BULLETIN

OF THOMAS PAINE FRIENDS

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SPRING 2018



THE RECALL OF MONROE

James Monroe, like Edmund Randolph and Paine himself, was sacrificed to the new commercial alliance between Great Britain and the United States. Washington's cabinet was hostile to France, and President Washington's determination to recall Monroe was furthered by Gouverneur Morris, still in Europe, who wrote the president calumnious letters about his successor as American Minister to France. In one dated December 19, 1795, Morris told Washington that he had heard from a trusted informant that Monroe had said to several Frenchmen that "he had no doubt that, if they would do what was proper here, he and his friends would turn out Washington." The recall, dated August 22, 1796, reached Monroe early in November. On his return to America, in 1797, Monroe tried in vain to discover the reason for it. This letter, by Paine, dated September 27, of that year, was addressed to the editors of the "Bien-informe". This introductory comment is by William Van der Weyde, Ed., *The Life and Works of Thomas Paine*, X, 77, 1928, New Rochelle NY: Thomas Paine National Historical Association.

CITIZENS: In your nineteenth number of the complimentary fifth, you gave an analysis of the letters of James Monroe to Timothy Pickering. The newspapers of Paris and the departments have copied this correspondence between the Ambassador of the United States and the Secretary of State. I notice, however, that a few of them have omitted some important facts, while indulging in comments of such an extraordinary nature that it is clear they know neither Monroe's integrity nor the intrigues of Pitt [Great Britain's Prime Minister] in this affair. The recall of Monroe is connected with circumstances so important to the interests of France and the United States that we must be careful not to confound it with the recall of an ordinary individual. The Washington faction has affected to spread it abroad that James Monroe was the cause of rupture between the two Republics.

This accusation is a perfidious and calumnious one; since the main point in this affair is not so much the recall of a worthy, enlightened and Republican Minister, as the ingratitude and clandestine maneuvering of the Government of Washington, who caused the misunderstanding by signing a treaty injurious to the French Republic.

James Monroe, in his letters, does not deny the right of government to withdraw its confidence from any one of its delegates, representative or agent. He has hinted, it is true, that caprice and temper are not in accordance with the spirit of paternal rule, and that whenever a representative government punishes or rewards good faith, integrity and justice should replace *the good pleasure of kings*.

In the present case they have done more than recall an agent. Had they confined themselves to depriving him of his appointment, James Monroe would have kept silence; but he has been accused of lighting the torch of discord in both Republics. The refutation of this absurd and infamous reproach is the chief object of his correspondence. If he did not immediately complain of these slanders in his letters of the sixth and eighth [July], it is because he wished to use at first a certain degree of caution, and, if it were possible, to stifle intestine troubles at their birth. He wished to reopen the way to peaceful negotiations to be conducted with good faith and justice.

The arguments of the Secretary of State on the rights of the supreme administration of the United States are peremptory; but the observations of Monroe on the hidden causes of his recall are touching; they come from the heart; they are characteristic of an excellent citizen.

If he does more than complain of his unjust recall as a man of feeling would; if he proudly asks for proofs of a grave accusation, it is after he has tried in vain every honest and straightforward means. He will not suffer that a government, sold to the enemies of freedom, should discharge upon him its shame, its crimes, its ingratitude, and all the odium of its unjust dealings.

Were Monroe to find himself an object of public hatred, the Republican party in the United States, that party which is the sincere ally of France, would be annihilated, and this is the aim of the English Government.

Imagine the triumph of Pitt, if Monroe and the other friends of freedom in America, should be unjustly attacked in France!

Monroe does not lay his cause before the Senate since the Senate itself ratified the unconstitutional treaty; he appeals to the House of Representatives, and at the same time lays his cause before the upright tribunal of the American nation.

--selected by Martha Spiegelman

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Martin Brod, Algernon D'Amassa, Edward J. Dodson,
Irwin and Martha Spiegelman, Linda and Robert West



A Short Mission Statement

The Mission of Thomas Paine Friends, Inc., is to encourage people to learn about and from Thomas Paine, his times and philosophy so that they may be inspired to participate in public affairs reflective of the spirit of Paine's life, thought and ideals.

To Know Paine, Read Him

Florence Stapleton -- Thomas Paine Chronicler

Some Websites and Blogs

thomas-paine-friends.org --Our TPF website is maintained by Ed Dodson. Anyone advocating for Paine can send Paine-related news to: edod08034@gmail.com.

facebook.com/thomaspainefriends?ref=br_tf --Facebook page of TPF. Enter discussions here.

religionpaine.org --Maurice Bisheff maintains this site of several essays and seminar pieces by him and James Tepfer, about Paine's religious and philosophical views.

valorww2.com --This site, maintained by Victor Madeson, contains many articles about Paine, including Commons Sense Clubs, Societies of Political Inquiry, and other subjects.

cooperativeindividualism.org --The School for Cooperative Individualism, Director, Edward J. Dodson, contains a large archive of articles about Paine. Also, summary of the life of Henry George and list of courses at the Henry George Schools.

historyisonourside.wordpress.com --Frances Chiu's blog has excerpts of writings of 18th century and later authors, such as James Murray, Richard Price, certainly Thomas Paine, with relation to our current political, social, cultural matters.

algerblog.blogspot.com --Blogger Algernon D'Amassa writes on a range of subjects, such as Paine's life, ideas, and influence, plus Zen Buddhism, politics, environment, arts, and more.

floridaveteransforcommonsense.org --In Sarasota FL, it sponsors an annual Paine birthday gala, as well as many human rights, peace and justice forums. TPF members Gene Jones and Mike Burns are president and vice president.

thomaspainesociety.org --Website of Thomas Paine Society, Pasadena CA. A Research Library is a major facility of TPS; see the website for details of its use and how to donate publications.

thomaspainesocietyuk.org.uk --This Thomas Paine Society in England publishes articles about liberal-progressive thinkers and movements in its *Journal of Radical History*.

rjlindsey.com --One-man show, "Thomas Paine, Voice of the American Revolution," by TPF member, Robert J. Lindsey. He has a new show, "Benjamin Franklin: Stories of Revolution".

thelifeofthomaspaine.org --Ian Ruskin performs his Paine monologue at many locations. News of the film schedule on PBS, plus related events, is at the website.

commonsensesociety.com --This society in Hungary holds many international forums and workshops, including in the U. S.

facebook.com/pages/Fort-Lee-Common-Sense-Society/199545953428717 --Fort Lee NJ Common Sense Society is preparing to raise a new Paine statue in 2018.

thomaspaine.org --Thomas Paine National Historical Association, located in New Rochelle NY.

kenburchell.blogspot.com --The Thomas Paine Review posts recent publications and news on Paine and related subjects.

www.thomas-paine-friends.org
Website Manager, Edward J. Dodson
edod08034@gmail.com



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TPF President Edward Dodson reports on recent activities---

On March 3, 2018, I hosted the showing of the Ian Ruskin film, "The Life of Thomas Paine: To Begin the World Over Again", at the Cherry Hill, NJ public library. The program was attended by around 50 people. I briefly introduced the film and later responded to questions from the audience.

On April 25th, I gave a one-hour talk on Thomas Paine to a newly-formed American Revolution Roundtable. The group is organizing to discuss the history of the battles and other aspects of the Revolution as occurred in the southern portion of New Jersey. My talk was the first presentation to the group. About 20 people attended, including one person who is a volunteer at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. --EJD

Benjamin Franklin Letter, relating to *The Age of Reason*

Sent to the *Bulletin* by Edward Dodson



TO THOMAS PAINE.

[Date uncertain.]

DEAR SIR,

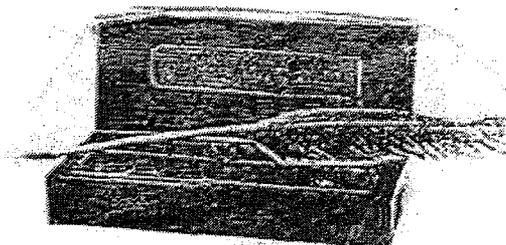
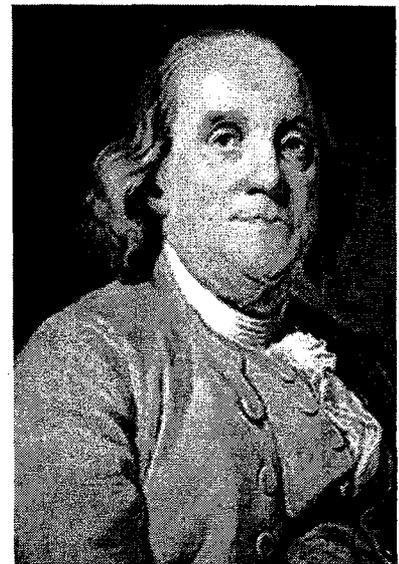
I have read your manuscript with some attention. By the argument it contains against a particular Providence, though you allow a general Providence, you strike at the foundations of all religion. For without the belief of a Providence, that takes cognizance of, guards, and guides, and may favor particular persons, there is no motive to worship a Deity, to fear his displeasure, or to pray for his protection. I will not enter into any discussion of your principles, though you seem to desire it. At present I shall only give you my opinion, that, though your reasonings are subtle and may prevail with some readers, you will not succeed so as to change the general sentiments of mankind on that subject, and the consequence of printing this piece will be, a great deal of odium drawn upon yourself, mischief to you, and no benefit to others. He that spits against the wind, spits in his own face.

But, were you to succeed, do you imagine any good would be done by it? You yourself may find it easy to live a virtuous life, without the assistance afforded by religion; you having a clear perception of the advantages of virtue, and the disadvantages of vice, and possessing a strength of resolution sufficient to enable you to resist common temptations. But think how great a portion of mankind consists of weak and ignorant men and women, and of

inexperienced, inconsiderate youth of both sexes, who have need of the motives of religion to restrain them from vice, to support their virtue, and retain them in the practice of it till it becomes habitual, which is the great point for its security. And perhaps you are indebted to her originally, that is, to your religious education, for the habits of virtue upon which you now justly value yourself. You might easily display your excellent talents of reasoning upon a less hazardous subject, and thereby obtain a rank with our most distinguished authors. For among us it is not necessary, as among the Hottentots, that a youth, to be raised into the company of men, should prove his manhood by beating his mother.

I would advise you, therefore, not to attempt unchaining the tiger, but to burn this piece before it is seen by any other person; whereby you will save yourself a great deal of mortification by the enemies it may raise against you, and perhaps a good deal of regret and repentance. If men are so wicked with religion, what would they be if without it. I intend this letter itself as a proof of my friendship, and therefore add no professions to it; but subscribe simply yours, B. Franklin

The letter is reprinted in Jared Sparks, *The Works of Benjamin Franklin* (1840, Boston: Tappan, Whittemore and Mason) X, 281-282. Whether the original letter still exists and where it might be archived I could not discover, although a good possibility would be the American Philosophical Society. --Edward Dodson



Desert Sage: *Supervising torture is incompatible with public service*

by Algernon D'Amassa, in *The Deming Headlight*, May 11, 2018

<https://www.demingheadlight.com/story/opinion/columnists/2018/05/11/desert-sage-gina-haspel-cia-supervising-torture-incompatible-disqualifying-public-service/595252002/>



"He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself."

— Thomas Paine

In fragile health, Paine addressed the French National Convention in 1795 as it worked on a new constitution during the French Revolution. This was after the Reign of Terror, the bloody period when Barère and Robespierre promoted terror as a legitimate tool of democracy.

Paine, who experienced the American Revolution first-hand, believed in constitutional rule: the rule of law rather than the rule of monarchs or mob vengeance.

Terror, in short, is not an instrument of democracy. It does not, as Robespierre argued prior to losing his own head, empower virtue.

Yet as I write this week's column, the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee is questioning a controversial nominee to head the Central Intelligence Agency. While Gina Haspel responds to questions about her participation in torture, not a single senator will use the occasion to question the agency itself.

No senator of either party will revisit the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 or question the agency's independence of oversight by elected power. No senator has the stomach to ask in a public proceeding why a legitimate intelligence-gathering agency should be allowed to conduct secret operations beyond its original mandate to inform policymakers of developments affecting national security.

How impolite it would be to ask how legitimate law and order is preserved by the CIA's covert operations, propaganda campaigns, past medical experiments, or domestic spying (even on members of Congress).

Despite the Democrats' passionate concern lately about Russian influence in our domestic politics, no senator will grill Haspel about the CIA's history of influencing other countries, including assassinations and coups of legitimate elected governments.

The last time senators were sufficiently embarrassed into addressing any of this publicly was in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal more than 40 years ago. This week, there is just enough political embarrassment about the Bush Administration's conduct of torture during the "War on Terror" that the senators feel obligated to ask Haspel about her participation in war crimes. They passed on holding anyone accountable eight years ago, but some will now make a show of scolding Haspel — and then vote to approve her.

Gina Haspel has served three decades in the CIA, a record that includes direct participation in lawless detentions, brutal interrogations, and inhumane confinement. She personally oversaw a CIA "black site" in Thailand where, as President Barack Obama later put it, "we tortured some folks." The brutality she supervised was documented, and Haspel was involved in the destruction of that evidence in 2005.

Obeying illegitimate orders should be disqualifying, but it's not.

Our Justice Department issued memoranda overriding laws and treaties so public servants like Haspel could conduct torture with some legal cover. It later rescinded those memos and, with the help of President Obama, shielded those who followed orders to brutalize detainees under that regime.

It is somewhat amusing that senators confirm directors of such an unaccountable agency at all, but approving someone who submitted to war crimes is repulsive.

Senators will shake their fingers and extract promises from Gina Haspel that such things will never happen again, but two things remain true: the CIA is not under democratic control, and neither party regards torture as incompatible with public service.

To our shame, and Paine's, both of our political parties have defended terror as a legitimate weapon of defense of "American interests."

If voters feel differently, it is time for some deep-cleaning.

Algernon D'Amassa is **Desert Sage**. Share your thoughts at: adamassa@demingheadlight.com.

D'Amassa, a former TPF Board member, contributed his first op-ed (in honor of Thomas Paine's birthday) to his local paper in 2009 and began sending in freebies once a month or so. He became a paid weekly columnist in 2014, appearing in three newspapers and occasionally others in the *USA Today* network, as a contractor. In 2017, *USA Today* hired him as a full-time reporter. Next month, he will be assigned to another newspaper as a business and community reporter, and his column will continue in the three papers. He also writes a blog, algerblog.blogspot.com.

Photo: Courtesy photo



Apostles of Revolution: Jefferson, Paine, Monroe, and the Struggle Against the Old Order in America and Europe

New book by John Ferling, 2018, New York: Bloomsbury Publishing USA, 496 pages

Publisher's Notes: *Some Americans who advocated revolution in 1776 desired little domestic change. Others desired political and social changes, but were quickly frightened by the transformation war brought about. But few embodied the era's revolutionary spirit as profoundly as Founding Fathers Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, and James Monroe embodied the revolutionary. They wanted to see change in the fabric of America that could never be realized while the colonies remained under Britain's rule—and they also hoped this fight would inspire revolutions that would sweep Europe free of its own monarchies. Even the threat of personal danger failed to temper their activism on behalf of both the American and the French revolutions.*

Historian John Ferling explores the careers of these Founding Fathers, what fueled their revolutionary passions, and how their thinking evolved after 1776.

John Ferling is Professor Emeritus of History at the State University of West Georgia. A leading authority on American Revolutionary history, he has appeared in many documentaries and has written numerous books, including *Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War for Independence*; *Adams vs. Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800*; *The First of Men: A Life of George Washington*; and the award-winning *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic*. [Text above and picture below from the Bloomsbury website.]



Read additional notes and several early reviews at the Bloomsbury website,
<https://bloomsbury.com/us/apostles-of-revolution-9781632862099/>

TWO AUTHOR PRESENTATIONS ARE COMING UP, ONE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND ONE AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Other meetings may be arranged, so check calendars for historical societies, libraries, book shops, etc., in your community.

At Massachusetts Historical Society, “Apostles of Revolution: Jefferson, Paine, Monroe...”, author talk by John Ferling, Wednesday, May 30, 6 to 7:30 PM, pre-talk reception at 5:30, \$10 per person (no fee for MHS members or fellows or for EBT cardholders). At: 1154 Boylston Ave., Boston MA. Registration is required. <http://www.masshist.org/calendar/event?>

At Smithsonian, “Authentic American Revolutionaries: Jefferson, Paine, and Monroe”, a talk by historian John Ferling on Tuesday, July 24, 6:45 PM, \$45 for non-members of the Smithsonian, \$30 for members. Advance ticket purchase required. At: S. Dillon Ripley Center of the Smithsonian, 1100 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington DC. <https://www.si.edu/Events/Calendar/?trumbaEmbed=date%3D20180724#/?i=1>

Paine's *Maritime Compact*...with an Inviting Proposal

From Victor Madeson

I'm trying to connect the dots in our Congregation (Bethlehem PA) to go from Paine's *Rights of Man* and his *Maritime Compact* to the Paris Peace Pact, to the United Nations Charter, ultimately to establish a Culture of Peace. Relating to that idea, I have composed information and commentary juxtaposing *Maritime Compact* and a recent book, *The Internationalists: How a Radical Plan to Outlaw War Remade the World*, by Oona A. Hathaway & Scott J. Shapiro, (2017, New York: Simon & Schuster).

On CSpan2, in 2017 and 2018, Professors Hathaway and Shapiro talked about their book, recalling the 1928 Paris Peace Pact (also called the Kellogg-Briand Pact) that outlawed war

and was signed by close to every country in the world.

www.c-span.org/video/?4341-1/internationalists, and, www.c-span.org/video/?439535-13/the-internationalists.

I also report that there's a Thomas Paine Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship at 3424 Ridge Pike, Collegeville, PA 19426, about 40 miles south of me (Allentown PA).

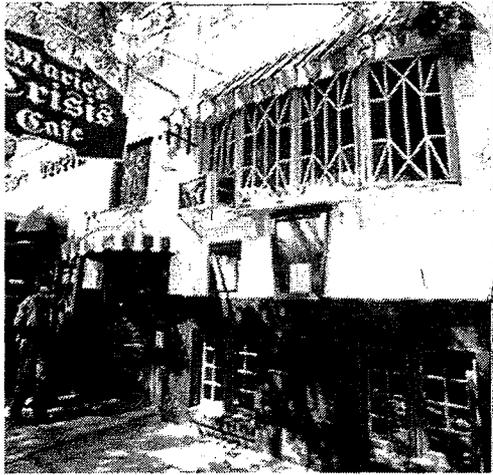
To obtain a copy of Madeson's full five-page proposal and discussion, entitled, *Pacte Maritime & The Internationalists*, contact him at, valorvm@yahoo.com.

Victor Madeson is Vice-President of TPF.

FROM THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE---

Marie's Crisis, 59 Grove St., Greenwich Village, New York City / a column by Neima Jahroni / May 7, 2018, p. 15

"The pamphleteer Thomas Paine, chief propagandist of both the American and the French revolutions, found himself maligned in his later years, as an infidel. An unrepentant Deist, he spent his final days penniless, in a ramshackle house in Greenwich Village, shouting away the clergymen who stopped by to save his soul. The building was destroyed in 1839, and the new one that arose in its place now holds, in the basement, a divey piano bar, where NYU, musical theatre students, heavy-lidded office workers, and Jimmy Fallon go to warble out show tunes. Steps from the piano is a three-paneled mirror lined with dusty liquor bottles and etched with the words "Rights of Man," Paine's defense of popular revolt. In 1801, Paine opined that merchant ships crossing the embattled Atlantic should fly rainbow flags as a sign of peace....." ---The remainder of the short column tells of the singing and the customers.



One can always hope to find something about Paine in the popular media, even if a minor tidbit as in this small column in the entertainment section. But, well, we take issue here and there with this magazine item.

"pamphleteer"---Thomas Paine Friends and other like-minded organizations usually credit Paine as an author, a thinker, a humanist, a political philosopher, not merely a "pamphleteer" which rather demotes Paine's abilities and interests. **"propagandist"**---The word has mixed connotations, often indicating someone who propounds facile, partisan points with little regard for truth; another conception is that of a talented spokesman for a cause, as was Paine.

"penniless"---A common claim, but just a few months before he died, Paine wrote a Last Will and Testament in which he bequeathed property, insurance proceeds, and other valuables, therefore, hardly an impoverished man.

"ramshackle house"---Maybe it was and maybe it wasn't; there's no documentation one way or the other, but the term implies that Paine lived in seedy conditions. Contemporaneous accounts do not support that assertion.

"shouting away"---From all accounts of his friends---yes, he had friends and admirers, one being the young American artist, John Wesley Jarvis, who created several likenesses of Paine---he told the interfering clerics to go away but never in a shouting voice. (In failing health, he spoke both little and quietly.)

In the early 1800s, Paine resided in a couple of Greenwich Village houses; historical plaques designate some of the streets where he lived. In June 1809, the dying Paine was transported, only when it was clear that his end was near, to a house near where Marie's Crisis Café now stands.

Jahroni pretty accurately describes the mirror panels behind the small bar. But the writer seems to have missed another piece of art, namely, a large etched wood panel, depicting Danton, Paine, and Robespierre, nearly life-size, tucked away upstairs in a "mezzanine". So far, there has not been any art or historical investigation that explains when and by whom the mirror panel and the wood panel were executed and how they came to be at Marie's Crisis Café.

---Martha Spiegelman

Kosciuszko, plus The Polish Constitution of 1791, report from John Skibiski

At the occasion of Polish Constitution Day on May 3rd, John Skibiski, TPF Board member, mentioned the friendly meetings in Paris in 1791-2 of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, patriot in the Polish and American causes, and Thomas Paine. The notion persists that Paine considered becoming a Polish citizen due to the country's spirit of fighting for liberty while being a conquered society with loss of freedoms, dignity and property due to oppression. Earlier, Kosciuszko had given valued service in the American Revolution.

Skibiski notes that the 1791 Polish Constitution was the second such constitution in the world. Poland, having been partitioned repeatedly by neighboring states, attempted major changes, such as providing new liberties and protections for the common people,

including the peasants, reducing the nobility's privileges, adopting judicial, legislative and executive departments. But powerful neighboring autocrats, fearing the liberal measures, soon made annexations which removed Poland from the face of Europe until 1918.

Skibiski writes: If you are seeking particular information regarding Paine and Kosciuszko, I can make inquiries of a history professor friend at Jagiellion University in Poland for anything that might be recorded there. The Polish National Library in Warsaw with its ancient collections was burned down by the Nazis during their retreat in World War II to destroy evidence of the Polish culture.

Polish postage stamp



left to right:
Kosciuszko, Paine, Washington

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- YES, I want to participate in and suggest activities related to public recognition of Thomas Paine.
- YES, I want my Paine organization / group / project listed in the *BULLETIN*.
- YES, I have news of Paine activities to post in the *BULLETIN*; or a short article (about 1,000 words) for the *BULLETIN*.
- YES, I want to receive the *BULLETIN* ~ suggested donation of \$10, to cover costs of four issues per year.

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To Know Paine, Read Him ~ Florence Stapleton, Thomas Paine Chronicler

Left Forum 2018 ~ A Paine Opportunity

“The Left Forum brings together national and international politics, people, ideas, and activism for a just, equitable, free, sustainable world beyond capitalism.”

Attend the many panels (hundreds of them!), plus films, art exhibits, music performances, informational booths, and much more during the three-day **Left Forum**. The schedule of events is at, <http://www.leftforum.org>. Purchase tickets online, or via email, at leftforum@leftforum.org, or at telephone number **1-212-817-2003**. VICTOR MADESON, TPF vice president, may still have discount tickets. Go to, valorvm@yahoo.com.

For several years, VICTOR MADESON has forged connections between Thomas Paine Friends and the Left Forum, a major multi-day conference of progressive-left groups and individuals held every spring in New York City. The theme for 2018 is **TOWARDS A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE LEFT**. This year's dates are Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, June 1 – 3, at John Jay Center, City University of New York, 899 10th Avenue, between W. 58th and W. 59th Streets, New York NY.

Madeson originated the Thomas Paine panels at the Left Forum six years ago, and the Paine panel has been part of the Left Forum almost every year since then. Several TPF members, including Dr. Frances Chiu, Dr. J. Ward Regan, Dr. Vince Stravino, Philip Reiss, Todd Carpien, Victor Madeson, and others, have been panelists. Two years ago, TPF and the Henry George School provided a joint panel that focused on economic questions. Victor Madeson made a DVD of one noteworthy 2012 Paine panel, with Frances Chiu, J. Ward Regan, and Michael DeDora. Contact Madeson to request a copy, valorvm@yahoo.com.

In 2014 the Left Forum held a plenary round table that discussed Paine's democratic vision. The highly regarded speakers were: Laura Flanders, Cornell West, Chris Hedges, Richard Wolff. Link, <https://www.c-span.org/video/?319792-1/panel-discussion-thomas-paine>.

Hedges revisited Paine in his 2015 book, *Wages of Rebellion: The Moral Imperative of Revolt*; he spoke of the book on “The Real News” television program, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNWvzgLqDP8>.

Tickets for students and the elderly start at \$40 for all three days; regular prices are \$80. These early prices expire on May 31. Contact Victor Madeson to see whether he still has any discount tickets, valorvm@yahoo.com.

A few of the plenary speakers are: Ajamu Baraka, Cathy Dang, Silvia Federici, Juan Gonzalez, Chris L. Hedges, Jane Sanders, Jumaane D. Williams, Richard D. Wolff, and so many more, *plus* Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir.

There is not an explicit Paine panel this year, but there are many panels on political economy sponsored by the **Henry George School**, a close associate with our Thomas Paine organization. Titles of some of those panels follow.

- Land Value Capture: Theory and Practice – countering open thievery
- History of Economic Thought – round table with a Georgist, a Marxist, and a Libertarian
- Economic Science – natural laws, value, and money
- Money, Credit, and Banking – real economy, financial sector, crypto-currencies
- The New Economics of the Business Cycle – impacts of credit-fueled consumption
- Occupy the Commons -- Rental Income Capture: workers-consumers-taxpayers unite against viral rent seeking
- Political Economy of Social Problems – battling income disparity
- Principles of Political Economy – poverty is a social choice

Thomas Paine Friends, Inc.
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HARTFORD CT 061

22 MAY 2018 PM 2 L



*Independence Is My Happiness...
My Country Is The World,
My Religion Is To Do Good
Rights of Man, part 2, 1792*

12-31-22

EDWARD J.
and DEBORAH DODSON
202 Horse Shoe Court
Cherry Hill NJ 08034-3151

BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF, BY, FOR THOMAS PAINE FRIENDS, INC.

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1

SPRING 2018

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Paine-Prometheus, Friend to Man...by Frances Chiu

Below are the opening paragraphs of *Critical Introduction of Thomas Paine* by Frances Chiu, a 1,300-word article in *Scribner's British Writers Supplement XXIV*, pp. 199-221, Ed: Jay Parini, 2017, New York: Gale Cengage Learning



If, as Oscar Wilde famously suggested, "life imitates art far more than art imitates life," the life of Thomas Paine could most certainly be said to reproduce the broad outlines of the tragic Greek hero of *Prometheus Bound*. With his publication of the three largest best sellers of the eighteenth century--*Common Sense* (1776), *Rights of Man* (1791-92), and *The Age of Reason* (1794-95)--the renegade writer was hailed as "The great, immortal Paine" (quoted in Moncure Conway, *The Life of Thomas Paine*, vol. I, p. 26). But he was also branded a "wicked, malicious, seditious, and ill-disposed person" (Erskine, *Speeches*, vol. 2, p. 3) before being banished from England. Or as John Adams put it most famously,

I know not whether any man in the world has had more influence on its inhabitants or affairs of the last thirty years than Tom Paine....*For such a mongrel between pig and puppy, begotten by a wild boar on a bitch wolf, never before in any age of the world was suffered by the poltroonery of mankind, to run through such a career of mischief. Call it then the Age of Paine.*

Who was this Prometheus who came to be bound and proscribed by the various establishments of America, Britain, and France but lauded by the diverse likes of William Blake, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, Afrika Bambataa, and (more recently) by the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street?

Frances Chiu, a TPF Board member, has taught history and literature at The New School since 2002. She has taught an online course on Paine and the Enlightenment (probably the first course in the US to focus on Paine). Her other courses focus on 19th century horror literature as well as on 17th-18th century social and democratic movements. In 2009, she organized a colloquium, "A New Era for Politics: Thomas Paine and the Rise of Modern Liberalism." In 2011, she was nominated for a Distinguished University Teaching Award. She is now completing a book on *Rights of Man* for Routledge Books.

