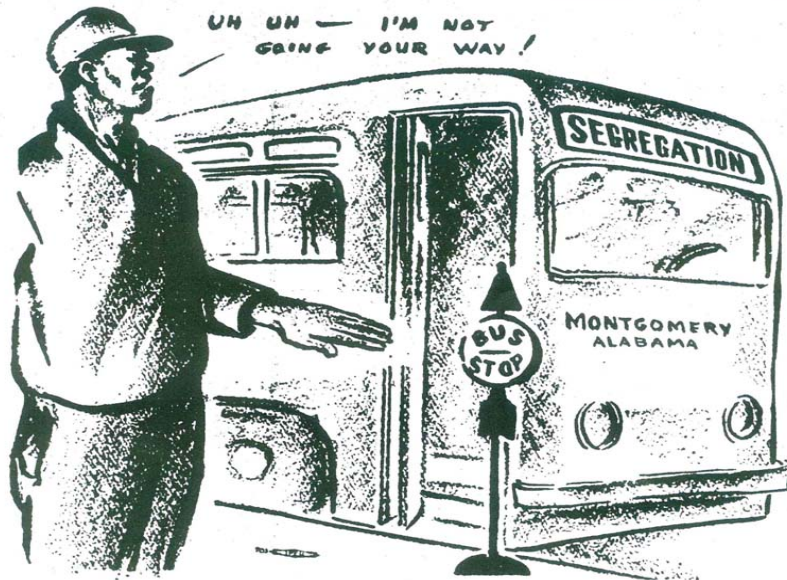
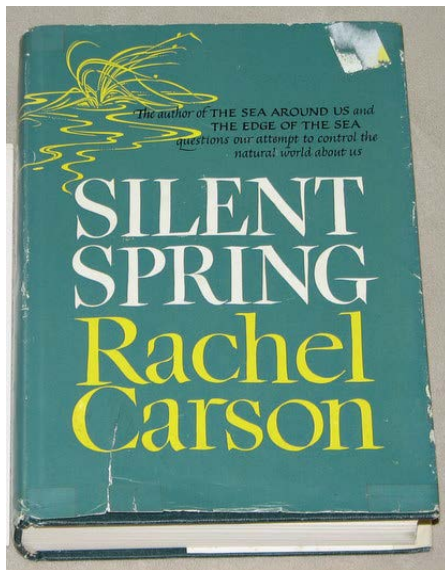


**1955 – Montgomery bus boycott lasted from December 1, 1955, to December 20, 1956. African-Americans in Montgomery, Alabama refused to ride the buses because the city made blacks sit in the back of bus. Their protest led to a United States Supreme Court decision that declared the Alabama and Montgomery laws requiring segregated seating on buses unconstitutional**



**Rosa Parks started the Montgomery bus boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white man. “People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”**

**1962 – Publication of a book written by Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*. The book documented detrimental effects of pesticides on the environment, particularly on birds. She also accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation, and public officials of accepting industry claims uncritically. The chemical industry attacked the book and called Carson a “hysterical woman.” It is said that this book launched the environmental movement.**



**“If the Bill of Rights contains no guarantee that a citizen shall be secure against lethal poisons distributed either by private individuals or by public officials, it is surely only because our forefathers, despite their considerable wisdom and foresight, could conceive of no such problem.”**

**1963 – March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963. 300,000 people (mainly African Americans) rallied for civil and economic rights. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech. The march was responsible for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Voting Rights Act of 1965.**



**"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"**

**1965 – United Farm Workers begin a 5-year strike against Delano-area grape growers to get better working conditions for farm workers. Hundreds of thousands people from across the country boycotted grapes to support the strikers. The strikes and boycotts resulted in recognition of the union and contracts with the growers. UFW continues to use strikes, boycotts and marches to better the lives of farm workers. A recent victory was the elimination of 3 of the worst chemicals used on grapes.**



**Speaking about the pesticides used on grapes, Cesar Chavez, the leader of the United Farm Workers Union said:**

**“Who gets the risks? The risks are given to the consumer, the unsuspecting consumer and the poor work force. And who gets the benefits? The benefits are only for the corporations, for the money makers.”**



**1978 – Love Canal in New York was the site of a major toxic waste dump on which the city of Niagara Falls allowed homes and schools to be built. The struggle of residents resulted in a declaration that it was a threat to human health and residents were evacuated. The struggle of Love Canal launched the grassroots toxics movement and led to the enactment of the Superfund law in 1985.**



**“I visited the canal area at that time. Corroding waste-disposal drums could be seen breaking up through the grounds of backyards. Trees and gardens were turning black and dying. Puddles of noxious substances were pointed out to me by the residents. Some of these puddles were in their yards, some were in their basements, others yet were on the school grounds. Everywhere the air had a faint, choking smell. Children returned from play with burns on their hands and faces.”**

**EPA Regional Administrator, Eckhardt C. Beck**

**1984 -The Bhopal gas tragedy was the world's worst industrial “accident” when Union Carbide released 42 tons of a toxic pesticide, methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas, exposing more than 500,000 people to toxic gases. 8,000 people died within two weeks, and an estimated additional 8,000 have since died from gas-related diseases. This tragedy led to the 1986 Right to Know Law.**

**‘When I saw the leaves on the trees curl and turn black and birds fall dead out of the sky, I knew that this was Death come among us as foretold. My regret is that I survived.’**

**-- A survivor of the Bhopal disaster.**



**The following events are to be added by facilitator.**

**1991 People of Color Summit  
Environmental Justice Principles**

**Mother Earth is sacred.**

**Responsible use of earth resources.**

**Self-determination for all peoples.**

**No toxic pollution.**

**Rights to people to work and live in spaces that are safe and  
healthy.**



## **1994- Executive Order on Environmental Justice**

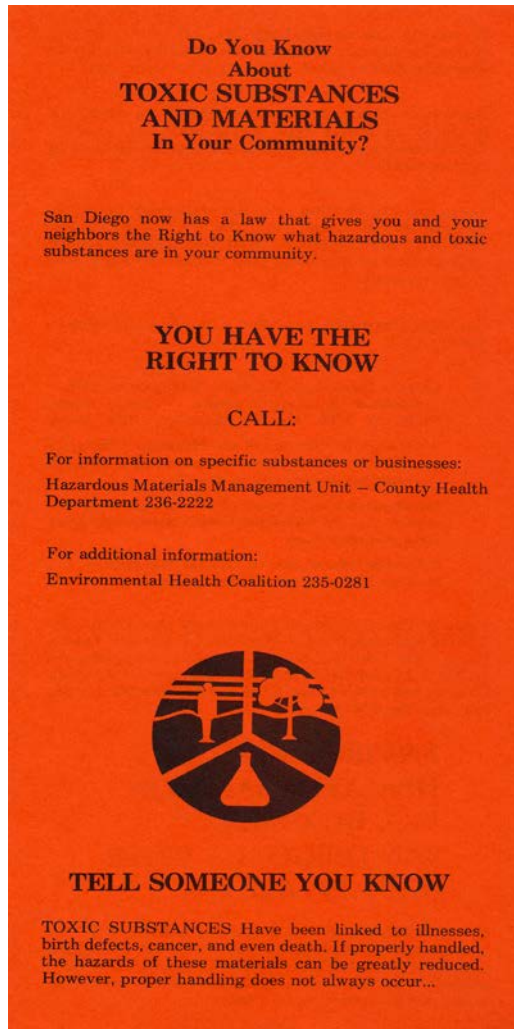
“... each federal agency must do its part in the environmental justice mission identifying and adequately mitigating the disproportionate and adverse impacts to human health and the environment in their programs, policies, and activities within minority and low income populations in the united states...” President Bill Clinton

**2003 – EPA California approved the Environmental Justice  
Advisory Committee recommendations –**

- Precautionary Principle
- Cumulative Impacts
- Pollution Reduction

**The following events will be added to the EHC time by the facilitator  
or participants after the Environmental Justice in San  
Diego/Tijuana Section**

# 1982 – San Diego approves the Communities Right to Know Law



**“The public’s right to know is a preventative, rather than a corrective measure. This is a community tool for residents to use to gain information regarding hazardous materials used in industry.”**

*...Diane Takvorian  
Chairperson  
Environmental Health Coalition  
November, 1982*

## 2002 – Master Plating is shut down

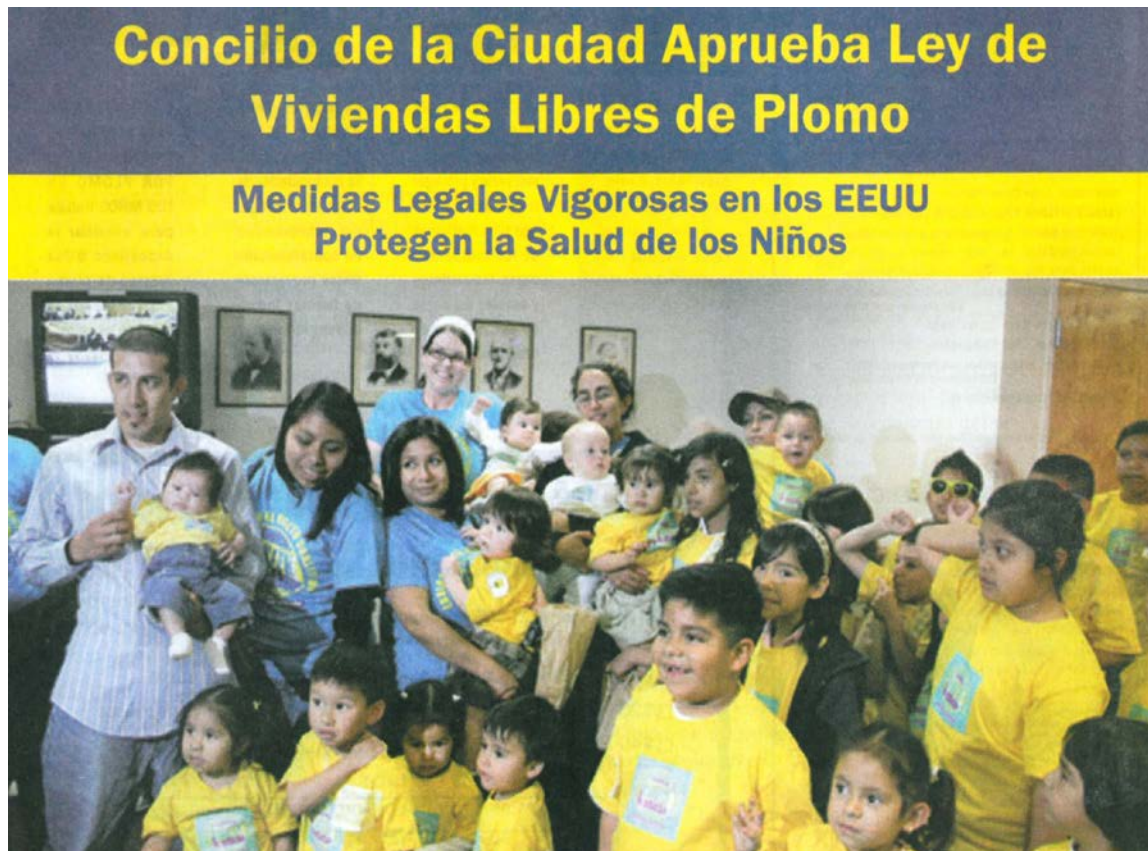


**“This is the way it’s supposed work...when a community works together to make its neighborhood a better place to live.”**

***...Elvia Martinez  
Neighbor of Master Plating***



# 2008 Lead-safe housing law is approved



**“Let’s stop using children as lead detectors. Lead does not discriminate. No child should be exposed to lead. It is a silent disease that continues to impact all children living in pre-1978 housing regardless of their income status, what neighborhood they live, and whether or not it is a rental or owner-occupied house.”**

***... Luz Palomino, an EHC  
Community Organizer***





# 2010 – South Bay Power Plant Shut Down after more than 50 years of polluting San Diego's air and water



**“This day has been long  
in coming and is a  
victory for our  
community, our quality  
of life and the health of  
San Diego Bay.”**

***..Laura Hunter  
Program Director  
Environmental Health Coalition***

# 2007 – OLD TOWN NATIONAL CITY Polluter Relocation Ordinance Passed



**“As a resident and a teacher, I’ve seen the impacts of poor planning and toxic pollution on our children. We have an opportunity now to create a new future for them.”**

*...Margaret Godshalk  
Lifetime resident of the Old Town neighborhood, a Kimball Elementary School  
teacher and a member of the EHC Board of Directors*

# 2009 – Metales y Derivados Toxic Waste Site Cleanup Celebrated



**“To transform a notorious toxic site into a symbol of how communities can lift their voices and achieve justice, that’s historic!**

*...Lourdes Luján  
A member of the Colectivo Chilpancingo Pro Justicia Ambiental and a longtime resident of Colonia Chilpancingo*