

**'LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS'**

# Marin screening of anti-hate film planned Tuesday

**By Keri Brenner**

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A film that tells how an entire community worked to repair town life after attacks on local immigrants will be shown twice Tuesday so that all Marin residents can attend.

"Light in the Darkness," a documentary produced by the Bay-Area-based national movement Not In Our Town, will screen at noon and 7 p.m. at the College of Marin's Kentfield campus, 835 College Ave., Room AC255. A discussion led by a panel of residents, students, educators, parents and civic and faith leaders will follow each screening.

The event is seen as key to offset a wave of hate crimes in Marin during the past year or so.

"We must continue to educate our community about the importance of acceptance and kindness," said Marin County District Attorney Ed Berberian, one of more than 175 Marin residents, students, educators and civic and faith leaders who have signed a pledge endorsing the program and vowing to stand up against hate. "We must model

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our beliefs in every aspect of our lives.

"We must never stand by and allow evil to triumph," he added.

Not In Our Town founder and filmmaker Patrice O'Neill said participation in Not In Our Town should be a sign that no intimidating or violent prejudicial acts will be tolerated in Marin County.

"The violence in Charlottesville and the rise of hate incidents have shaken our country," she said. "Acts of intolerance and bigotry have surfaced even here in Marin County schools and in this community — there is so much at stake."

Not In Our Town is a movement to "stop hate, address bullying and build safe, inclusive communities for all," according to the website.

O'Neill, who led several smaller groups last year in Marin, will moderate the discussion and introduce the film. "Light in the Darkness" is a different film from the one shown last year, which focused on white supremacist incidents in Billings, Montana.

"Light in the Darkness" takes place elsewhere in the country and focuses on how a community rallies after the murder of an immigrant, said organizer Jeff Greendorfer.

"It's very powerful," he said.

To RSVP for the noon screening, go to [bit.ly/2CWC6kr](http://bit.ly/2CWC6kr). To RSVP for the 7 p.m. screening, visit: [bit.ly/2mhW3rB](http://bit.ly/2mhW3rB)

For more information, see [NIOT.org](http://NIOT.org).

## Marin Voice

# Taking a stand against hate and bigotry

By Ed Berberian,  
Mary Jane Burke  
and Damon Connolly

It was Edmund Burke who said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good (people) to do nothing." ("Reflections on the Revolution," 1790). This truth was accurate in 1790 and it is accurate today.

In Marin County, our core values of embracing diversity, acceptance and inclusion are being challenged in a variety of ways, from headlines and social media to schools and the community at large.

While this reality is disheartening, it is not being ignored.

Proudly, organizations and community members are working to correct the injustice and negative discourse to reinvigorate our cultural morals county-wide. We are bringing to Marin: Not In Our Town (niot.org) a na-

tional movement to stop hate, address bullying and build safe, inclusive communities for all.

Recognizing the problem is the first step in correcting any situation. It would be easy to turn a blind eye to racist remarks and religious ignorance, but doing so would only result in an unspoken acceptance of this behavior as the norm. But our community leaders have chosen not to stand on the sidelines. Our community is better than bigotry.

Our community's response is to stand for what we believe is right. We believe that together we can send the message that these kinds of acts will not be tolerated. We believe that educating people about bias and prejudice will promote acceptance and reduce intolerable acts.

Community organizations, law enforcement and schools have come together to offer trainings

**Through these efforts, our community is proving that we are better than hate. We are resilient; and we are united in our common beliefs. But our efforts cannot wane.**

and informational events for students, families, school staff and community members focused on anti-bias, encouraging courageous conversation, raising cultural sensitivity and ending the social isolation of students who are perceived as "different."

Our students have taken action at school sites to voice their concerns and reject acts of bigotry and hate. Examples include demonstrations of unity, kindness campaigns, and responding to messages of hate with messages of love and compassion.

Through these efforts, our community is proving that we are better than hate. We are resilient; and we are united in our

common beliefs. But our efforts cannot wane.

We must continue to educate our community about the importance of acceptance and kindness. We must model our beliefs in every aspect of our lives. We must never stand by and allow evil to triumph.

On Feb. 13, the College of Marin will be hosting a screening of the Not In Our Town film, "Light in the Darkness," about a town coming together to take action to repair a community shaken after attacks on local immigrants. The film will be followed by a panel discussion composed of residents, parents, students, civic and faith leaders, as well as community members.

Attendees will be asked to pledge to be up-standers, not a bystander; engage in cooperative community-building based on respect and collaboration; and to stand together with neighbors to create safer, more inclusive communities.

Join us in promoting Marin as a community full of kindness, acceptance and love. Be one of the good people taking action against evil. Let Marin County be a place that practices our core values every day.

*Ed Berberian is Marin County district attorney; Mary Jane Burke is Marin County superintendent of schools; and Damon Connolly is president of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. The Not In Our Town screenings will take place at noon and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, in Room AC255 at the College of Marin's Kentfield campus. Learn more at [niot.org](http://niot.org).*