

# GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Ventura County Supporters



## **TOY GUNS DO KILL!**

**Wednesday, May 19th, 2010**

**Thousand Oaks Library**

**1401 E. Janss Road, 7:00 P.M- 8:30 P.M.**

Over 30,000 Americans are killed each year by guns. Every three hours a young person dies from gunshots! No other industrialized country has as high a death rate from guns as does the United States. Yet while we spend millions of dollars to prevent diseases, placing restrictions on smoking, or trying to increase the safety of our cars, we are not doing enough to control guns.

There are now nearly 300 million guns in U.S., almost one for every man, woman and child. Gun laws are being loosened in spite of tragedies at Columbine and Virginia Tech. People will carry guns to Starbucks, into national parks, and in Arizona even into bars. Yet in the face of this growing threat, Congress is afraid to pass new gun control legislation, afraid of the NRA, and our Supreme Court seems only too eager to even further loosen gun laws.

In the face of this national passion with guns, Dr Farideh Kioumehrdadsetan, a prominent epidemiologist, is challenging the status quo in a grassroots campaign to educate children against toy guns and violence. Her work has attracted international attention and has earned her the American Public Health Association's Peace Award. Dr. Kioumehrdadsetan is the president of the International Health & Epidemiology Research Center ([www.iherc.org](http://www.iherc.org)) in Los Angeles which operates a comprehensive violence prevention/intervention project that strives to eliminate mortality and morbidity in children and youth by influencing children's learned responses at an early age. Started in 1994, this campaign educates and raises awareness about the hazards of guns, toy guns/weapons, violent video games, and violence among children, parents, and educators and is accomplished in a variety of ways, including presentations, workshops, art works, letter writing, influencing toy manufacturers and policy makers, petitions, billboards, and other means.

We are proud to have Dr. Kioumehrdadsetan speak to us on this crucial topic. Please join us on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Thousand Oaks Library.

A question and answer period will follow the presentation. The program is free and open to the public.

### **GLOBAL EXCHANGE VENTURA COUNTY SUPPORTERS**

[www.globalexchangeventuracountysupporters.org](http://www.globalexchangeventuracountysupporters.org)

For further information, Contact: Joanie McClellan at GXventuraTO@aol.com. Tel: (805) 241-8855. The Global Exchange Ventura County Supporters is a group of people - a community of conscience - dedicated to providing local monthly public forums, supporting and working with other local organizations committed to social and economic justice, human rights and ecological sustainability

**Global Exchange**, headquartered in San Francisco, is an international human rights organization dedicated to promoting environmental, political and social justice. Since our founding in 1988, we have increased the US public's global awareness while building partnerships worldwide.

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