

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



April 2018 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274
Visit Us on the Web at www.pvpdemocrats.org
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

COMING EVENTS

Social time: 2pm

APRIL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, April 15th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Screening of *Charlie vs Goliath* documentary

MAY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, May 20th

MEETING TIME: 2:30-4:30pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Sacramento legislation update

SPEAKER: Assemblyman Al Muratuschi

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April General Meeting

For our April meeting, we will be hosting the South Bay premiere screening of *Charlie vs Goliath*, a documentary by filmmaker Reed Lindsey.

From the film's website: "*Charlie vs Goliath* is a feature-length documentary about an ordinary man's extraordinary struggle to shake up the political establishment. It would be hard to find a more unlikely candidate than Charlie Hardy, a 75-year-old penniless former Catholic priest who spent nearly a decade serving the poor while living in a cardboard shack in a Venezuelan slum. In 2011, Charlie returns to his hometown of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and is shocked to see poverty, hunger and homelessness." Here's a link to the movie's trailer: <http://www.charlievsgoliath.com/teaser/>



As we face our own challenging campaigns for House seats right here in California, this inspiring and thoughtful film asks us to reexamine how political campaigns are run and to stand up against money in politics and inaction, even in the face of daunting odds.

March Meeting Report

by Carol Moeller

West Virginia's 2nd Congressional District

PVE resident Joanie Gale announced that her daughter, Elizabeth is the campaign Manager for **Aaron Scheinberg**, who is running in West Virginia's 2nd Congressional District. Aaron is a

West Point and Harvard business school grad as well as an Iraq War veteran. This victory would help flip the House! Use this Act Blue account to donate: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/maincontributions>

LA County Superior Court Judge Candidate for Seat #60

LA County Superior Court Judge seat # 60 candidate **Tony Cho** spoke of his experiences as a Deputy District Attorney prosecuting crimes in the Elder Abuse Section. Former PV Dems President Connie Sullivan previously worked as a volunteer advocate for the elderly and wholeheartedly endorses his candidacy. A lifelong Democrat and resident of LA County (his father was the mayor of Cerritos), Tony also serves as a Staff Judge Advocate at the Office of the Judge Advocate General with the California State Military Reserve, where he holds the rank of Captain. His opponents include Public Defender Holly Hancock and Deputy District Attorney Ben Collela, neither of whom have websites up at this time.



Tony Cho, LA County Superior Court Judge Candidate for Seat #60

Lieutenant Governor Candidate Eleni Kounalakis

Stepping in for Lieutenant Governor candidate Eleni Kounalakis, who had to cancel at the last minute, staffer **Dallas Fowler** did a masterful job of outlining her positions. Although Eleni's family housing development business has earnings listed in the billions, her father emigrated from Greece and once worked as a farmworker to

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finance his education at CSU, Sacramento. Her top priorities include:

1. Affordable education
2. Protecting California lands (she's accepted no funds from Big Oil).
3. Affordable housing
4. Protecting the most vulnerable including dreamers, and those under Sanctuary status
5. Gun control



Dalles Fowler, staffer to Eleni Kounalakis

Eleni envisions corporate partnerships with community colleges for job procurement and tuition reduction.

Solana-Butcher Development

[Save our Neighborhood](#) spokesperson **Josey Vanderpas** outlined her organization's goals of preserving neighborhoods, reducing traffic and holding government accountable.



Josey Vanderpas, Save our Neighborhood

To that end, they oppose the [Solana-Butcher development](#) plan on the west corner of Hawthorne & Via Valmonte in the old diatomaceous earth mine.

The City of Torrance is considering approval of a 248-unit apartment complex there, despite their own city plan limiting development on that amount of acreage to 60 single family homes. She sited the congestion that would result at that intersection that could affect everyone on the

hill. Join their April 18th meeting at 6:30 pm at the PV Library Community Room.

Flip CA Swing Districts

Television writer and new PV Democrats' member **Jason Berlin** is a co-director of the LA Region of CADem (California Democratic Party), along with Michael Tonetti. The immediate goal is to flip 5 California swing districts: CA-25 currently held by Steve Knight, CA-39 currently held by retiring Congressman Ed Royce, CA-45 currently held by Mimi Walters, CA-48 currently held by pro-Russia Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, and CA-49 currently held by retiring Congressman Darrel Issa.



Jason Berlin (on left) and Michael Tonetti

CADem is promoting door-to-door canvassing (face-to-face interaction is the most effective way to turn out the vote), voter registration drives (vote-by-mail registrants have the best voting records), and phone banking (which allows activism right from your home).

LACDP Report

Lynn Bommer provided the very important LA County Democratic Party (LACDP) report that outlined the new Jan 1 law allowing 16 year-olds to preregister to vote. As such, she is promoting reaching out to our high school

students, particularly in the aftermath of March for Our Lives. Contact Lynn Bommer at labommer@gmail.com to help register students to vote.

Al Muratsuchi Fundraiser

Connie Sullivan announced a fundraiser for Al Muratsuchi on April 22nd at the home of Richard and Melanie Lundquist. Contact Connie at pvedems@gmail.com. She also announced a Torrance Refinery Action Alliance meeting on April 2nd from 6-8 pm at the Sizzler at 2880 Sepulveda Blvd.

The Charter City Debate

By Carol Moeller

I attended the second Charter City meeting of RPV (reported in the [Daily Breeze](#)) and I came away bothered, chiefly because of some troubling statements from proponents:

"The CA legislature has an agenda..."

"We know where the state is going..."

"Having a Charter City will protect us from Sacramento."

"RPV is a low tax city."

"A Charter City can require a longer time period before a termed-out council member may seek election."

"Sacramento has made threats to us..."

"Build a wall around the city..."

There were also negative opinions voiced on unions, environmental groups and on sanctuary cities. Party affiliations within the city were also mentioned. Right now, there are about 475 cities in CA, and about 121 of them have changed from General Law (which has to follow the dictates of the state) to Charter Cities (which may have more latitude, depending on how the charter is written). None of the cities on the hill are currently Charter Cities. Previously, a Charter City plan was put to the RPV voters, but was voted down by 72% of those who cast ballots (only 30% of those eligible voted in that election). The leader of the latest push for Charter City status, Carolyn Petru, was part of the RPV city staff when this was previously put to the voters. Chief among the reasons she gives for the change now has to do with land use control. Her committee plans to draft a charter modeled primarily on the [Palm Springs charter](#) to present to the RPV City Council at the May 1st meeting. The

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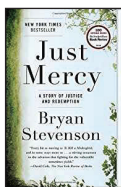
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City Council has until July 19 to decide whether to put this to a vote. The final meeting of the Charter committee is on April 16th from 7-9pm at Hesse Park, and I urge all RPV residents to attend.

Just Mercy - A Story of Justice and Redemption

By Bryan Stevenson

Reviewed By Ann Nye



Bryan wrote this book as a call to fix our broken system of justice. One of his first cases, Walter McMillan, takes place in the hometown of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, where Bryan Stevenson is the real life, though black, Atticus Finch who ultimately gets McMillan free after 6 years on death row; not by uncovering the evidence, but by stubbornly pursuing the case all the way to the Supreme Court. Bryan is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (<http://www.eji.org/>) in Montgomery, Alabama which works to help correct the horrors of children sent to prison without possibility of parole, people on death row whose convictions are a travesty of justice, and minorities who do not get anything close to fair and equal treatment.

Bryan gave a good summary of his mission when he first met civil rights activist Rosa Parks, and she asked about his work:

Well, I have a law project called the Equal Justice Initiative, and we're trying to help people on death row. We're trying to stop the death penalty, actually. We're trying to do something about prison conditions and excessive punishment. We want to free people who've been wrongly convicted. We want to end unfair sentences in criminal cases and stop racial bias in criminal justice. We're trying to help the poor and do something about indigent defense and the fact that people don't get the legal help they need. We're trying to help people who are mentally ill. We're trying to stop them from putting children in adult jails and prisons. We're trying to do something about poverty and the hopelessness that dominates poor communities. We want to see more diversity in decision-making roles in the justice system. We're trying to educate people about racial history and the need for racial justice. We're trying to confront abuse of power by police and prosecutors —" I realized that I had gone on way too long, and stopped abruptly. Ms. Parks leaned back, smiling. "Ooooh, honey, all that's going to make you tired, tired, tired."

March For Our Lives Highlights *Some of us marched in the South Bay and others marched in Downtown Los Angeles.*

The South Bay March for Our Lives included nearly 6000 participants! Just prior to the beginning of the march, the whole space from Highland Ave. to the pier was packed! At one point, marchers filled the entire length of The Strand from the Manhattan Beach Pier to the Hermosa Pier! Speakers at the also jam-packed Hermosa end included Ted Lieu, Ben Allen and Al Muratsuchi, along with local elected officials.



Listen NRA/GOP



The students being shot at today
are the voters
of tomorrow

Hey, Hey NRA



How many kids
did you kill today?

The DTLA March for Our Lives congregated at Broadway and 5th (east of Pershing Square) and listened to students from Santa Monica College (remember the shooting in 2014?) and survivors from Stoneman Douglas, Columbine and Sandy Hook. Students recited poetry and sang original songs for the event. Then the marchers walked down both Broadway and Spring streets to City Hall where there were speeches by Mayor Garcetti and comedian Amy Schumer..





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Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

www.pvpdemocrats.org

As a member of the Palos Verdes Democrats, you can:

- Meet other Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials, raise funds and work for candidates
- Attend special events and monthly meetings
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national import
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference)

Please send your membership form to P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274
Please fill in all items to ensure that we have your full and correct current information.

Name _____

Name* _____

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

- ☐ I am a registered Democrat
☐ I am registered No Party Preference
☐ I am a registered Democrat
☐ I am registered No Party Preference

Residence Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Occupation _____

Employer _____

E-mail Address _____

*Select One: ☐ Individual: \$ 25.00/Year ☐ Family Membership \$40.00/Year
☐ Young Adult \$10.00/Year

Amount enclosed _____ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

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