

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



October 2014 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

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: October 19th

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Luke's Presbyterian Church
26825 Rolling Hills Rd., RHE 90274

TOPICS: Planned Parenthood Since Recent
Court Decisions; 26th SD Candidate Forum

SPEAKERS:

Dinah Stevens, Planned Parenthood, SD26
Candidates Ben Allen and Sandra Fluke

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: November 16th

TIME: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd., RHE 90274

TOPIC: Election Summary; Fair Trade:
Voting with your Wallet

SPEAKERS:

Sergio Carrillo, CDP Region 16 Director
Joan Harper, Fair Trade LA
Jane Alfonso, Ten Thousand Villages,
Redondo Beach

October Membership Meeting Event: Planned Parenthood and 26th SD Forum

Our October 19th meeting will be at our usual 2:30-4:30 time and will once again take place at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church on 26825 Rolling Hills Rd., RHE, 90274. We are grateful to St. Luke's for stepping up for our Aug and Oct meetings when the library was unavailable; however for the foreseeable future further meetings will take place at the library.

Our October meeting will involve updates from Planned Parenthood in the wake of recent roadblocks to women's health. Our speaker will be Dinah Stephens, Director of Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.

We also will be hosting a forum for the 26th Senate District candidates, Ben Allen and Sandra Fluke. Since the vote-by-mail ballots will be sent out on Oct 6th, those who vote absentee might want to hear what these candidates have to say before casting their ballots. The format will be a Q & A session, and we want questions in advance from YOU! Please send them to rpsdem@gmail.com by October 14.

September Meeting Report by Connie Sullivan

In President Carol Moeller's absence Connie Sullivan opened the meeting and invited Eileen Hupp of the Palos Verdes Chamber to announce the Chamber's October 17 candidates' forum that will be held at the Palos Verdes Golf Club. Reservations are necessary to attend that event, which is a luncheon event. Candidates for all three local elections will participate in the forum.

Hans Grellmann informed us of the Common Cause/Move to Amend/Wolf PAC forum against Citizen's United to be held at the Pacific Unitarian Church on Saturday September 27 from 9:00 to 12:00.

The League of Women Voters announced their candidates' forum to be held on October 8 at Hesse Park.

The meeting was turned over to Lynn Bommer, Second Vice President in charge of programs who introduced our first speakers from the League of Women Voters: Arlene Block, Judith Webb and Katy Watkins.

The League of Women Voters then provided a non-partisan overview of the 6 ballot propositions. Our California Democratic Party recommends as follows:

Prop 1 (water bond) – yes

Prop 2 (rainy day fund)– yes

Prop 45 (healthcare rate change approval)– yes

Prop 46 (increase the cap on medical lawsuits and drug test MDs) – neutral

Prop 47 (misdemeanors for non-violent first offenders)– yes

Prop 48 (exempt Indian gaming environmental restrictions)– yes

The next speaker Lynn introduced was Dr. Peter Mathews, professor of political science at Cypress College who spoke about his book entitled *Dollar Democracy: With Liberty and Justice for Some: How to Reclaim the American Dream for All*.

The Atlanta Progressive News had this to say about Prof. Mathews book:

"The first chapter, "Buying American Politics and Selling Out the American Dream," explains the problem of what Mathews refers to as Dollar Democracy.

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Chapters 2 through 7 outline how Dollar Democracy affects different aspects of life for working people in the U.S., including jobs and the economy; education; health care; destroying our environment for immediate profits; big agribusiness, pesticides, and GMOs; and the Great Recession. If one accepts the premise of Chapter 1--that unlimited campaign contributions are subverting democracy and the democratic process--then one may skip or selectively peruse Chapters 2 through 7, as these chapters are the evidence to support that central claim, which is made in Chapter 1. Chapter 8 explores solutions, and is particularly enlightening."

Towards the end of his talk, Prof. Mathews spoke about public financing of local elections that have worked well in the States of Arizona and Maine and recommends this as one solution to the terrible problem we face today with all the money corrupting our political system.

Alan Grayson Came to Malibu for Ted Lieu Fundraiser

By Connie Sullivan

On Saturday, September 20, eight Palos Verdes Democrats trekked to a Malibu Canyon horse ranch to meet Congressman Alan Grayson (a.k.a. "Congressman with Guts"). He was there to help Senator Ted Lieu raise money for his race for the 33rd Congressional district seat being vacated by Henry Waxman.

For those of you who don't know Congressman Grayson, he's very popular with the progressive wing of our party and is most famous for describing the Republicans' healthcare plan as: "Don't

get sick and if you do get sick, die quickly". The man really has a way with words.

That speech in the well of the House made him a target of the right and they mounted a successful campaign to turn him out of office in the 2010 wave election. In 2012, he won again and is back in congress.



Jean McDonald, Connie Sullivan, Congressman Grayson, Margaret Paez, Lynn Bommer, Paul Paez and Teresa Savo

The host of the event served a delicious barbeque lunch and guests sat back and enjoyed the food and the political speeches. Grayson spoke mostly about Ted's record in Sacramento and how he expects Ted to continue crafting and passing legislation that solves problems for people, much like Henry Waxman has done for 40 years.

I think everyone felt the two-hour drive to the event was really worthwhile to be able to meet Grayson and help Ted Lieu with his campaign, all at the same time.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi's Bills are Signed into Law

by Carol Moeller

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed several environment-related bills drafted by our

own South Bay Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, Democrat from Torrance. One bill streamlines the installation of residential solar panels (which currently can take months), another increases the number of Green Stickers available for carpool lanes, and the third remove impediments to the installation of electric vehicle charging stations on private property.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2188, standardizes and expedites solar permitting, by requiring that cities process permits for small, residential solar installations within five business days. Giving municipalities until Sept 30, 2015 to be ready, this law also reduces the solar review process to a single inspection once the installation is complete.



Assembly Bill (AB) 2013, also drafted by Al Muratsuchi, increases the number of electric cars allowed in carpool lanes from 55,000 vehicles to 70,000. The Green Sticker program allows electric and natural gas vehicles to drive in carpool lanes regardless of the number of passengers in the car.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2565 guarantees a tenant the right to install a vehicle charging device in a rental unit, and includes protections for both tenant and landlord.

Al Muratsuchi Presents Distinction Award to PV Dems Member

Mary Shadbourne was recently named as one of the "2014 Women of Distinction", an award presented by our assemblyman Al Muratsuchi. This award recognizes the extraordinary volunteer gifts these women have given to communities within the 66th AD.

After working for over 25 years as a special education teacher for the Torrance Unified School District, Mary retired and dedicated herself to volunteer activities that would positively impact the lives of others. One of her main activities has been creating and leading the "Comfort Project" for the South Bay Quilters Guild which annually provides

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over 600 quilts created by members of the guild to women's shelters, children's hospitals, and senior rehabilitation facilities. Another activity to which Mary donates a large amount of time is visiting patients and staff at local healthcare facilities with one of Al and Mary's four registered therapy dogs, all of whom were acquired as adult "rescues".

Yet another passion is providing companionship to those who are alone in their final hours at Little Company of Mary Hospital under the auspices of the "No one Dies Alone" program. Mary also regularly participates in the Vitas Hospice program by providing volunteer assistance to hospice patients. We are proud to count Mary as one of our members.



Al Muratsuchi with "2014 Women of Distinction" award honorees

California Bans Plastic Bags

By Carol Moeller

California will be the first state in the nation to ban plastic bags. The hotly contested SB 270, strongly supported by environmentalists, will allow stores to charge customers 10 cents for paper or reusable plastic bags as an alternative. About 1/3 of the state has already banned plastic bags locally, and as a result, plastic bag use in California has dropped from 30 million in 2006 to 13 million now. The ban on plastic bags for large grocery stores begins on July 1, 2015 and extends to smaller stores a year later. State Senator Ted Lieu voted in favor of SB 270,

and State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi also supported the bill, stating that "environmental degradation and convenience have costs," that we "all need to share in the cost," and "the crisis is real... plastics in our oceans is real."



PV Dem member Hans Grellmann supports plastic bag ban

PV Dem Members Rally for People's Climate March

By Carol Moeller

This September 20, a climate rally was held in Rolling Hills Estates to publicize the People's Climate March in New York City the following day. The NYC march was a huge success, with more than 300,000 participants, making it by far the largest climate march in history.



Climate Rally at Hawthorne and Silver Spur

Book Suggestion

By Marge Crandall PhD

Ralph Nader talked about his new book, *Unstoppable: The Emerging Left-Right Alliance to Dismantle the Corporate State*, on August 3, 2014, on BookTV.org, broadcast on CSPAN2.

In the book, Ralph Nader calls for an alliance between progressives, conservatives, and libertarians to take on issues like corporate bailouts, Pentagon spending, and civil liberties. During the BookTV.org broadcast held at the Cato Institute, commentary is provided by Daniel McCarthy, editor of The

American Conservative, and Tim Carney, columnist for the Washington Examiner.

Ralph Nader is a political activist and consumer protection advocate. He has run for president five times since 1992. Mr. Nader's books include *Unsafe at Any Speed* and *Crashing the Party*.

To watch the podcast, go to www.BookTV.org, type Ralph Nader in the Search box, then click on WATCH.

Have you read a book or an article about a politically relevant person or issue that you want to share? If so, please send your write up to pvedems@gmail.com.net. We want to hear from YOU!

Harold Williams, West Basin Water



A fundraiser for club member Harold Williams' in his race for Water Board was held at the home of Dick and Connie Sullivan

Your Club Dollars at Work

To date, we have donated \$1400 each to the Muratsuchi and Lieu campaigns, \$250 to member Harold Williams in his race for West Basin Water Board, \$100 for a silent auction item at the Roosevelt Dinner, and are also offering a total of 4 \$25 discounts to Roosevelt Dinner attendees to help offset the cost, plus we gave a \$50 donation to the LACDP to fund their LA County Fair booth. The last three items enable the LACDP to funnel funds to campaigns most in need.

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Palos Verdes
Democrats
Founded 1952

P.O. Box 2234,
Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

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

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 _____ ☐ I am a registered Democrat

Name* _____ ☐ I am a registered Democrat

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - two memberships

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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☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree

☐ I might offer my home for a meeting or social event