

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

November 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

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 18th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Midterm Election results and CDP
youth outreach projects

SPEAKER: Danny Leserman and dan
Weltzman

DECEMBER MEETING

NO MEETING in Decemberenjoy the
holidays.

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, January 20th

MEETING TIME: 2:30-4:30pm

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

TOPIC: TBD

SPEAKER: TBD

Inside This Month's Issue:

Nov General Meeting Page 1

October Meeting Report Page 1-2

President's Report Page 2-3

Book Review Page 3



November General Meeting Discussion about Nov 6th Midterm Election results and the CA Democratic Party's youth outreach projects.

Danny Leserman, Deputy Executive Director
with the Los Angeles County Democratic Party
since January and working with them in various
positions since 2014, will give an update about
LACDP and the local assembly and senate races.

Dan Weitzman, a long time activist for the
California Democratic Party (CDP) wasn't able
to make our October meeting. Dan works for
CA Senator and U.S. Senate candidate, Kevin
De León, and will focus his talk about the CDP's
youth outreach projects.

October Meeting Report by Tex Yamada and Asha Shahed

Proposition 6 - Eliminates certain road repair and transportation funding

Torrance Mayor Pat Furey strongly endorses
a **"NO" vote on Proposition 6** in the November
6th midterm election. Speaking at the Palos
Verdes Democratic Party October meeting, Furey
supports the continuation of "gas tax" revenue
laws, originally enacted by the passage of Senate
Bill (SB) 1 in April 2017.

If passed, Prop 6 eliminates the **SB 1** fuel tax
and vehicle license fee revenue, which funds
6,500 statewide transportation-related projects.
In turn, these highway, road, and transit programs
create an estimated 200,000 construction jobs in
potentially all 58 California counties.

Specifically, SB 1 levies a 12 cent and 20
cent per gallon tax on gasoline and diesel fuel,

respectively. Also,
annual vehicle
registration fees
are increased in
the range of \$25 to
\$175, depending
on vehicle market
value.



Torrance Mayor Pat Furey

If Prop 6 passes
in the midterm
election, state legislators and voters will need to
find different ways and means to fund highway
and road repair and maintenance as well as other
statewide transit demands. Currently, Prop 6
raises about \$5 billion annually.

Mayor Furey cited numerous Torrance street
repair and maintenance needs as a basis for a "No"
vote on Prop 6. He described the city's distinctive
combination of "commercial, residential, and
industrial" identity, which helps explain its need
for improved street repair and maintenance and
traffic safety.

Notable proponents of Prop 6 include John
H. Cox (Republican candidate for California
governor), Carl DeMaio (former San Diego
Council member and now conservative talk radio
host), and Republican Congressmen Paul Ryan,
Steve Scalise, and Kevin McCarthy. Prominent
opponents of Prop 6 include Gavin Newsom
(Democratic candidate for California governor),
Jerry Brown (current California Governor), and the
League of Women Voters of California.

Vote for Incumbent Assembly District 66 Al Muratsuchi

CA State Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi,
the incumbent, is pitted against Republican
candidate, Frank Scotto, in a closely contested

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

race for the 66th district in the November general election.

At the Palos Verdes Democratic Party October meeting, guest speaker, Torrance Mayor Pat Furey, urged the audience to vote for fellow Democrat Muratsuchi, who garnered 50.9% of the votes to Scotto's 43.2% in the June primaries.

Muratsuchi seeks his third term as assemblyman of district #66, albeit in non-consecutive terms.

He won the seat in years 2012 and 2016, while losing by a scant 706 votes to Republican David Hadley in 2014. The 66th district includes the beach cities of Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Hermosa Beach, as well as Gardena, Torrance, a portion of Carson, Rolling Hills, and Palos Verdes. According to published reports, recent voter registration totals in the 66th district indicate the Democratic Party leading the Republican Party 40.1% to 28.9%, with "No Party Preference" at 26.3%.

Muratsuchi's opposition to Proposition 6 and environmental issues provides a defined contrast to his Republican opponent. Mayor Furey discussed at length Muratsuchi's work with protecting the environment and support of legislation in favor of street maintenance and safety.

Meanwhile, Scotto is a proponent of Prop 6 and 13, in addition to opposing funding for mass transit, such as high-speed rail. He also supports much of the President Trump agenda.

Measure W - Los Angeles County Flood Control District parcel Tax

On the 2018 ballot Measure W is a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of land

impermeable to rain water (e.g. buildings, driveways, and other hardscaped areas). Inclusion of Measure W in the 2018 Ballot was approved by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (4-1). The intent of this measure is to provide funds to cities throughout the county to capture, treat, store and reuse stormwater. This measure, if approved by the voters, is expected to generate \$ 300 million annually.

Measure W is important to drought prone southern California's growing water needs and to keep our shoreline clean. This measure has wide support with homeowners, renters, labor, business leaders, fire fighters, public health experts, environmentalists, Heal the Bay, LA League of Conservation Voters, CA Senator Ben Allen, Mayors Eric Garcetti (LA) and Pat Furey (Torrance) and many others throughout LA County.

According to the Measure's website: The Safe, Clean Water Program would fund stormwater capture projects and programs that improve water quality; increase water supply; and invest in communities by developing a skilled local work force, greening schools, parks and wetlands, and increasing public access to natural areas like rivers, lakes, and streams. The Program would fund the construction and maintenance of projects that:

- Protect public health by cleaning stormwater pollution and contamination
- Safeguard marine and other wildlife from trash and toxins in stormwater runoff
- Mitigate severe drought impacts by increasing local water supply
- Update our local water infrastructure to capture and treat stormwater
- Help cities meet their Clean Water Act obligation to clean stormwater

The program would prioritize projects that

use nature-based solutions to capture, clean, and conserve stormwater, which can beautify communities while improving our resilience against extreme weather patterns of drought and heavy storms.

The major arguments against Measure W (as listed on 2018 Sample Ballot) include the usual conservative anti-tax rhetoric and also the claim of a lack of clearly defined projects, plans, schedule, guarantees and no end to the tax. However, all of these objections are actually very clearly spelled out on the Measure W website at www.safecleanwaterLA.org.

President's Report **by Rascha Hall**

As I write this report, we have less than 2 weeks to the midterm elections. It has been a busy month for Palos Verdes Democrats. Phone banking to flippable districts continued in Palos Verdes, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach. We had phone banking in RPV for Al Muratsuchi. Several of us spent hours stuffing envelopes at Al's campaign headquarters in Torrance. We enjoyed the information about Proposition 6 that we received from Mayor Pat Furey of Torrance at our October meeting.

We had a good showing to support our honoree, Webmaster Reggie Jue, at the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt 2018 Democrats of the Year Dinner on October 21st. Reggie and his wife Kay, a former honoree, were there of course. Also, Recording Secretary, Kathy Bradford, Corresponding Secretary, Arline Korb, 2nd Vice President, Joseph Lopez, and I were there. Also in attendance were several members at-large, David Hall, Moira and Dency Nelson, Stacey Michaels, Tony Hale, J.P. Tabakian and our newest member, Sterlina Cerritos. There were close to 700 people in attendance.

The day after our October meeting, Sheila Poncher hosted a postcard writing party at her home. I was unable to attend, but Sheila reported that there were 25 people who wrote 310 postcards to people around the country who are living in districts currently represented by a Republican Congressman but which voted for Hillary in the 2016 election ("flippable" districts). Several members of the club

PRIORITYONE

PRINTING ★ COPYING ★ GRAPHICS

Phone (310) 831-8804 • FAX (310) 833-9598

E-mail - priority1@earthlink.net

Website: www.priorityoneprinting.com

Newsletter Printing Donated by PRIORITYONE

continued from page 2



Clockwise from the left: Barbara Schiff (club member), Henry and Inga Lurie, Diane and Jim Shneer, and Ruth Kisner.



Standing from left: Tony Hale, Joseph Lopez, Sterlina Cerritos, J.P. Tabakian, Kathy Bradford, Kay and Reggie Jue, Moira and Dency Nelson. Seated from left: Stacey Michaels, Arline Korb, Rascha Hall. Photo by David Hall

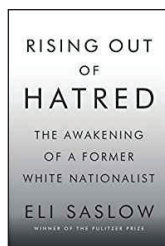
participated. Thank you to Sheila for hosting and thank you to all the participants.

Book Review

Rising Out of Hatred - The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist

By Eli Saslow

Reviewed by Ann Nye



Did you hear? With just a few weeks before the midterm elections, Trump proudly proclaimed at a Houston campaign rally, "I am a Nationalist." How did white supremacy ideology become so mainstreamed and rebranded in the Republican Party?

To find out, read Washington Post reporter, Eli Saslow's *Rising out of Hatred*, account of young, Derek Roland Black's rise as the white power prodigy in the white nationalist movement.

Derek is the son of Don Black, once a leader of the Ku Klux Klan and the creator of the largest hate website in the world, Stormfront.org, and his godfather is David Duke, former head of the KKK whose ex-wife is Derek's mother. Growing up within the insular world of white nationalism, Derek was both a prodigy within and a product of this movement. As Obama was winning the White House in 2008, Derek at 19 was hosting an online radio show with the goal to "normalize these white nationalist ideas that already fit so neatly within the divides of modern society." Born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida (his family could see the 80 foot flagpole flying at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort a few miles from his parents' house), Derek campaigned to become a Republican committeeman in Palm Beach County, Florida, advocating, "I'm kind of banking on them [the Republican Party] staking

their claim as the White Party. We can infiltrate. We can take the country back." Derek and other white nationalists saw Barack Obama's 2008 presidential win as a sign that white people would start voting more strongly on racist ideas, not less. On the Stormfront website and at white nationalist conferences around the South, Derek popularized phrases like "white genocide" (all nonwhite immigration into white countries is white genocide), "reverse racism" (anti-racism is a code word for anti-white), and "racialist" (a nicer word than racist), and changed the language to make it comfortable for people who did not want to be called racist to speak like a white nationalist.

Homeschooled and isolated from any beliefs outside of his family's racist views, Derek's unlikely metamorphosis came while attending New College, a liberal college in Florida. Before his background became known, he made friends with students; including Mathew, an orthodox Jew. Mathew enjoyed talking to Derek and invited him to his Shabbat dinners, where he socialized with students of other religions, genders and ethnicities. Then Derek's background was discovered. But, despite being in horror by what Derek promoted on his Stormfront website and the campus pressure to oppose those beliefs, Mathew and the other Shabbat friends, daringly continued their relationships with him for two years. They didn't discuss white nationalism, but they did talk about their life experiences, which in the end influenced Derek. Paradoxically, Derek enjoyed talking to Moshe, an orthodox Jew, in German, where Derek learned German to find out about his family's white immigrant history and Moshe learned German to discover his family's concentration camp history.

Ultimately, it was Derek's relationship with a

studious, small town, white student who won his trust. That student was Allison, who realized she needed to research and arm herself with the facts to dispute Derek's white supremacy ideology. Allison pushed him to educate himself about white privilege and racial issues and classism and discrimination and to get informed. Derek took on this challenge. He had come to New College as a history major (especially loving Medieval history), where his readings contradicted much of what he espoused on Stormfront. "If European whites were really a genetically superior race, then why had Europe lagged so far behind Islamic culture in technology, art, and science for much of the middle Ages? ... if races were really better off segregated, then why had one of the greatest medieval territories been Al-Andalus in Muslim-controlled Spain, where Christians, Jews, and Muslims lived together in all shades of brown, combining to make advancements in art, philosophy, and architecture?" Derek realized the iconic European warriors celebrated on Stormfront "fought not for their race but for religion, culture, power, and money, just like every other empire of the Middle Ages."

Derek's studies enabled him to finally realize his ideology was built entirely on misinformation.

In 2013, Derek Roland Black, disavowed and apologized for his white nationalist beliefs by writing to the Southern Poverty Law Center (the enemy of his movement), changed his name to Roland Derek Black and then disappeared.

In 2016, with the encouragement of Allison (now his girlfriend), Derek re-emerged to confront the legacy of what he helped brew and wrote an opinion piece to the New York Times. He told Saslow, "he felt implicated by current events, sometimes even culpable. Maybe he had stopped planting the seeds of hate and division, but they were still growing all around him." Saslow spent hundreds of hours interviewing Derek and had access to the New College students, Derek's father, Derek's godfather, and other white nationalists like Richard Spencer, also an academic like Derek. If we consistently confront white nationalist ideology, *Rising out of Hatred* shows there is hope to deflate the hateful rhetoric unleashed by Trump's rise to power.

Postscript: Hateful anti-globalist (aka anti-Jew) and anti-immigrant rhetoric did invoke carnage at the Tree of Life Synagogue; words do fan the flames of hate..



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334

President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

1st Vice President: Randall Klinenberg 310-977-1607

2nd Vice President: Joseph Lopez 310-935-9801

Recording Secretary: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650

Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501

Newsletter Editor:

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805

Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526

Hospitality: Maria Frusteri 310-270-1160

Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189

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

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

- ☐ Hospitality ☐ Newsletter ☐ Membership ☐ Publicity ☐ Correspondence
☐ Voter Registration ☐ Campaign Work ☐ Website/Facebook ☐ Phone Tree