

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

February 2017 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

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, February 19th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPICS: Mediators Beyond Borders; US ambassador to Israel

SPEAKERS: Steve Goldsmith and Jonathan Zasloff

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Sunday, March 19th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Unite Here Local 11

SPEAKER: Alexandra Weyman

Inside This Month's Issue:

Feb General Meeting Page 1

Jan Meeting Report Page 1-2

Assy District Election Meeting Page 2-3

Reflections from the Women's

March in Los Angeles Page 3

The Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) is asking us to demand a ban on MHF/HF on the 2nd anniversary of the 2015 explosion. <https://safetorrancerefinery.wordpress.com/>

**Let your voice be heard! Join TRAA's
Rally and March**

Saturday, Feb 18, 2017

**10:00 -11:30 am at Columbia Park
(NW corner of W 190th St and Prairie Ave)**

BREAKING NEWS! The South Coast AQMD plans to adopt a new RULE 1410 BANNING HF/MHF at refineries by the end of 2017. This is fantastic and AMAZING progress. But, we need to keep fighting! Expect opposition.

February General Meeting

On February 19, the Palos Verdes Democrats will meet at 2:30 pm in the community room of the Peninsula Center Library to hear from two speakers of interest to Democrats.

Steve Goldsmith, Operations Facilitator with Mediators Beyond Borders International, a NGO working with partners internationally in war-torn countries to build mediation skills and assist these countries in working towards a more "peaceable" world. MBB places special emphasis on enhancing skills of women peacebuilders in conflict zones. Additionally, Mediators Beyond Borders is an official observer organization for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, advocating for strengthening mediation structures in the UN.

MBB also has local chapters, which have trained many dialog facilitators to assist in "community-police dialogs" throughout LA County organized by partner organizations. The chapter is developing, along with the international organization, "purple" dialogs (between Democrats and Republicans) to address the "conflict of politics and the politics of conflict".

Steve Goldsmith is a graduate of the University of Chicago who began his career as an activist in the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960's. In the last 25 years, he has worked with an organization that provides "restorative justice" mediation programs for keeping inner city kids on a success track. Steve's interest and involvement in peace and conflict resolution spans more than 50 years.

Our second speaker is UCLA Law professor, Jonathan Zasloff. Zasloff earned a JD from Yale and a PhD from Harvard (History of American Foreign

Policy). As if that were not enough, he is now a rabbinical student! He teaches Torts, Land Use, Environmental Law, Comparative Urban Planning Law, Legal History, and Public Policy Clinic - Land Use, the Environment and Local Government.

Zasloff has concerns about the President's choice for ambassador to Israel, which he sees as a strategy to split the American Jewish community. And he has concerns about the President's general "hostility toward democracy." As an example Zasloff points to the President's early statements about banning immigrants based upon religion.

So please join us for the February meeting to learn, to socialize with like-minded Democrats and to enjoy our homemade goodies

January Meeting Report by Carol Moeller

PVE City Council candidate **Sanford Davidson** spoke briefly about his interest in protecting the parkland chartered by the City of PVE when it was founded. Like previous speaker John **Sanford Davidson** Harbison, Davidson wants greater transparency in city government. Currently he serves on the PVP Library board and is an ophthalmologist practicing in Rivera Village.

PV Democrats member **Evelyn Granata** responded to the disaster of the Nov election in a very positive way: by sharing with us her findings



Evelyn Granata

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

regarding the Southern Poverty Law Center. This non-profit organization is a legal advocacy group that specializes in civil rights and public interest litigation. They put together a map of the 892 active hate groups, showing that every state in the continental US has at least one. The southern states have the most, but California has the most of all the western states, including white nationalists, anti-Muslims, anti-LGBTs, anti-immigrants, white separatists, black separatists, the KKK, neo-nazis and holocaust denial groups, just to name a few. The SPLC teaches tolerance by providing anti-bias documentary films, books, lesson plans and other materials that reduce prejudice and promote educational equity. According to their website, "the SPLC is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality." Our PV Dems board voted to donate \$100.00 to this worthy organization. Thank you Evelyn for educating all of us!

Kanji Sahara of the Gardena Valley Democratic Club also has taken positive steps in the wake of the Nov election by proposing that the Dem clubs in the South Bay area join forces to focus on the following:

- Support for Muslims
- Support for undocumented individuals facing deportation
- Opposition to Paul Ryan's Congress
- Opposition to biased Supreme Court nominees

As a child, Kanji was incarcerated in a WWII Japanese Camp and he is committed to prevent



Kanji Sahara

this from happening to other groups. He asked that members of the audience sign up to work on these committees, so if you weren't able to do so, please contact him at saharakanji@gmail.com.

Former PV Democrats President **Tony Hale** provided a defense of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), especially surprising since he is widely regarded as an advocate for the environment, and most of us feel that environmentalists are not in favor of GMOs. We previously heard from Jim Montgomery, who spoke in opposition to GMOs, so Tony's presentation enabled us to hear both sides. Stating that scientific consensus is what brought him to favor GMOs, Tony used a scrolling background of pro-GMO references to make that point.

Tony noted that natural horizontal gene transfer gave us the sweet potato and natural evolution of cabbage gave us 9 common edible plants, but it wasn't until 1982 that the first plant (tobacco) was genetically modified. Tony stated that the "Green Revolution", which involves agribusiness-type pesticide/herbicide monoculture farming using GMOs has saved over 1 billion people from starvation. Now globally, 81% of soybeans, 81% of cotton, 35% of maize and 30% of canola are genetically modified, and the US numbers are considerably higher. He cited Monsanto (now, or soon-to-be Bayer) as the developer of Golden Rice, which has increased levels of β -kerotene, thus enriching the diets of many in Asia.

During the spirited Q & A session, when asked about some commonly criticized chemicals, Tony stated that glyphosphate



Tony Hale

(the principal ingredient in Round Up) is less toxic than caffeine. He claimed that Bee colony collapse is due primarily to poor commercial practices rather than due to chemicals and that the decline of the Monarch butterfly is primarily due to loss of habitat. Tony stated that "there are no credible studies showing that GMOs are unsafe" and the World Health Organization finds GMOS have no negative effects on human health.

Since so many in the audience had differences of opinions on this presentation, the PV Democrats have invited Tony to begin a blog on our website regarding GMOs. This will give those who would like to counter Tony's presentation a chance to research facts.

Assembly District Election Meeting

by **Connie Sullivan**

On Saturday, January 7, South Bay Democrats from throughout the 66th Assembly District gathered at Zamperini Field in Torrance to elect 7 women and 7 men as delegates to the Democratic State Central Committee. The crowd numbered 386, a probable record for this district.



66th Assembly District Democrats in line to vote in the ADEM on a blustery day

A funny thing happened to the Democratic Party after suffering a devastating loss in the Presidential election. New members began pouring into the clubs and there was new interest in the party at all levels. The Bernie supporters especially have been showing an interest in organized Democratic Party politics since last summer when they showed up in force at the summer California Democratic Party Executive Board meeting. They came back for the Nov Executive Board meeting.

The upcoming May convention election of the new state party chair is shaping up to be a contest between the party establishment candidate and the candidate the Bernie

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continued from page 2

supporters have decided to back. The filing period hasn't opened yet, so more candidates may come forward. Should be a very interesting convention. (Usually the conventions are somewhat staid affairs.)

The Bernie supporters of the South Bay fielded a small slate of 5 people. All five won positions in the delegation from the 66th Assembly District. The complete list of winners follows:

Women

Audrey Wong
Margie Hoyt
Stephanie Solomon
Barbara Epstein
Margaret Bove-Lamonica
Catherine Familathe
Amy Howorth

Men

Tony Hale
Brian Carolus
Brian Hitchcock
James Gow
Samuel Liu
Mark Harrison
Jeffrey Duclos

Tony Hale was elected Executive Board delegate.

Reflections from the Women's March on Washington in Los Angeles

by Ann Nye

Whether you marched or watched, the Women's March was a worldwide experience on Saturday, January 21st, a day after the President's inauguration. See the incredible photos from the US and around the world at this link: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/21/world/womens-march-pictures.html>

This was an INCLUSIVE march and invited everyone who supports women's rights. The turnout was so much larger than the organizer's expectations. Meeting at Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles, the march was supposed to go to City Hall, however, the amount of participants extended to City Hall already, so folks had to expand to street after street to move towards City Hall. To express themselves, people knitted/wore "pussy hats" and made up signs or downloaded the free poster designs from the website. Here's a Lisa Donovan poster photoshopped with Women of Palos Verdes, CA.

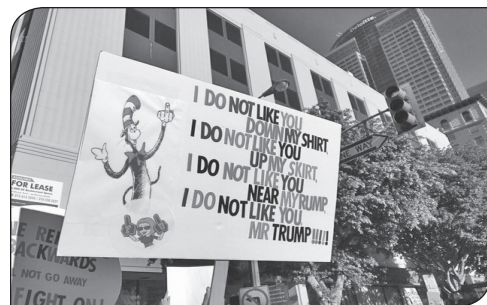
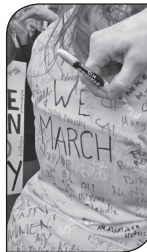
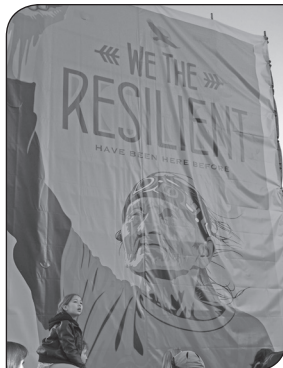


From Mary Ross

I attended the Women's March LA with church friends and what a beautiful experience this was. There were so many families, couples, men, and women of every ethnicity everywhere... being positive. I was amazed at how everyone participated in the shout outs and chants... "What does democracy look like? This is what democracy looks like." "Yes We Can," "Si Si Puede" Men chanting "Their bodies, their choice." Women chanting "Our bodies our choice." "This is just the first day of protest."

The signs were so very creative! For example, "There are better cabinets at Ikea," "I am with her, and her and her..." "Real men don't fear strong women," "Make America Read Again." "Build Bridges not Walls", "1958 is calling...Don't answer," "Planned Parenthood Saved my Life", "We are the People", "This is just the first day of protest."

I am so glad I was able to attend this most uplifting march and to hear people say this was a beginning!



From Rascha Hall:

What an amazing day at the Women's March in Los Angeles on Saturday. A large group of us took public transport at 7:10am, some boarding at Golden Cove and some at Peninsula Center, and I don't think the bus driver had ever seen so many people board his bus on a Saturday.

By the time we got to Harbor Gateway for the bus to downtown, the line waiting extended the length of the platform. Metro transit was definitely not prepared for the onslaught! There was no complaining; everyone so happy to see such a large turnout. We waited close to two hours to get onto a bus.

The bus driver let us off at 6th and Grand. I had never seen so many people at a march; the streets were flooded with people. Hooray for us!

One thing that stood out all day was how orderly, polite, kind, considerate and respectful everyone was. The bus drivers were terrific. The riders all applauded when we reached our destination. Even the police and other security personnel were friendly. And the weather--we couldn't have asked for a better day. It rained heavily the day before and again on the day after, but the sun shone brightly on the marchers.

We arrived home after dark. I was exhausted, but euphoric at the same time.





Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2016-2017

President: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188

President Emeritus: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526

1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812

2nd Vice President: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554

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Parliamentarian: Craig Williams 301-265-9812

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Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139

Precinct Captains: Connie Sullivan 310-378-1554

Dee Dee Gonzalez 210-367-9727

LACDP Associate Member: Megan Crawford 310-766-8222

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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