

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## March 2017 Newsletter

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

### COMING EVENTS

**Social time: 2pm**

#### MARCH MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, March 19th

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

**TOPICS:** Unite Here Local 11; Sacramento  
Report

**SPEAKERS:** Alexandra Weyman; Senator  
Ben Allen

#### APRIL MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, April 23rd

**MEETING TIME:** 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

**TOPIC:** TBD

**SPEAKER:** TBD

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#### Support the **I**des of Trump 03.15.2017

ON MARCH 15TH,  
2017 EACH OF US  
WILL MAIL THE  
WHITE HOUSE  
A POSTCARD  
THAT PUBLICLY  
EXPRESSES OUR  
VOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE NEW PRESIDENT. AND WE,  
IN VAST NUMBERS, FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD,  
WILL OVERWHELM WASHINGTON.



Write one postcard. Write a dozen! Create your own cards,  
buy them, share them, it doesn't matter as long as you  
write #Theldes or #TheldesOfTrump on them somewhere.

### March General Meeting

On March 19, the Palos Verdes Democrats will meet at 2:30 pm in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Center Library to hear from two distinguished and informative speakers.

**Alexandra Weyman**, research analyst with **UNITE HERE Local 11** will speak to us about the union, which according to their website "represents more than 20,000 workers employed in hotels, restaurants, airports, sports arenas, and convention centers throughout Southern California. Members of UNITE HERE Local 11 join together to fight for improved living standards and working conditions.

Local 11 is an affiliate of UNITE HERE, an international labor union that represents 270,000 working people across North America. Our members in the U.S. and Canada work in the hotel, gaming, food service, manufacturing, textile, distribution, laundry, transportation, and airport industries."

Weyman will discuss the union's work in the South Bay and will bring 2 workers to speak along with her, one from a unionized hotel and one from a nonunionized hotel who "will share their stories to highlight the union difference, and the importance of dignity and respect on the job."

The union membership is made up of primarily women of color who come from many parts of the globe. The union provides members many services, such as legal assistance on immigration status issues, tip and wage protection, transportation, health care, and working conditions. Also, **Senator Ben Allen** is planning to stop by and give us a brief Sacramento report. The Senator's new committee assignments for

the 2017-2018 legislative session are Education (chair), Transportation and Housing, Elections and Constitutional Amendments and Natural Resources and Water. This will be a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas with Senator Allen.

So join us to hear and learn from these two speakers, or to converse with like-minded Democrats or to enjoy yummy homemade goodies. There are so many reasons to attend this meeting!

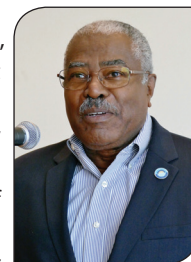
### February Meeting Report

by Carol Moeller

Our first invited speaker, Steve Goldsmith, from Mediators Beyond Borders International, was unable to make it so the meeting began with more time to discuss activist opportunities and an update of the state of our water. We've highlighted the activist opportunities after this report.

#### West Basin Water District President, Harold Williams

said despite all the rain we've had this season, Governor Brown has not declared the drought to be over. 2016 was globally the hottest year on record. Greater than 2/3 of California residents receive water from the State Water Project, and vulnerable West Basin Water District President, Harold Williams said, "Water conservation is an attitude; motivation gets you started but habit keeps you going, so don't stop conserving!"



West Basin Water  
District President,  
Harold Williams

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## Trump's Nominee for Ambassador to Israel

PV Dem's speaker, **Jonathan Zasloff** received his law degree from Yale, his Master's in International Relations from Cambridge and his PhD from Harvard. He has been part of the UCLA law school faculty for nearly 20 years. He previously has served as a policy advisor to the Speaker of the California Assembly and currently serves on the board of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the LA Center for Law and Justice (the leading legal service firm for low-income clients), and Friends of Israel's Environment, in addition to his studies as a rabbinical student.



*Jonathan Zasloff,  
UCLA Law Professor*

Zasloff explained that Israel still has no constitution, but is described as a Jewish and Democratic state. However, he feels it may be closer to an apartheid state because roughly one in every 3 people in Israel and its territories cannot vote, and this one person is almost always Palestinian. Zasloff sees a strong anti-democratic movement in the US on the basis of religion as well. The GOP no longer seems to care if Israel is a Democracy (and with all the voter suppression here, one might wonder if they care if the US is a democracy).

The US right wing somehow sees Russia as a Christian power fighting Islam said Zasloff, which might help to explain why they are not up in arms that Trump defends them. At the behest of the Republicans, Netanyahu came to the US and embarrassed Obama. In return,

the GOP-controlled Congress did not object to additional expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories.

Now, David M Friedman, a bankruptcy lawyer who has represented Donald Trump's businesses since 2001, has been nominated as Ambassador to Israel. He donated \$50,000 to the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee. Friedman has accused Barack Obama of "blatant anti-Semitism" for his support of the Iran nuclear deal and has also accused the State Department of being "anti-Semitic and anti-Israel for the past 70 years".

Shortly after his nomination, Friedman said he would move the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which was one of Trump's campaign promises. The Palestinian Authority opposes both the plan to move the U.S. embassy as well as Israeli annexation of the West Bank, and both are in opposition to current US State Department policy. Five former United States Ambassadors to Israel stated their opposition to Friedman's nomination both on the basis of his policies and his lack of diplomacy.

When the liberal advocacy organization J Street "vehemently opposed" Friedman's nomination primarily because of his opposition to the two-state solution, Friedman called members of that organization "far worse than kapos" (a term for Jews who sided with the Nazis). He said "J Street....are just smug advocates of Israel's destruction delivered from the comfort of their secure American sofas — it's hard to imagine anyone worse".

Zasloff encourages us to turn the energy of the marches into votes, although he did say that political strategy is no longer as much about votes as about donors. He feels it is the politics of nostalgia that makes voters vote for change, even when that change is against

their best interests. He quoted Bill Clinton as saying that the "Republicans need a divided America to win", and they accomplish this by "demonizing their opponents" and using the "narcissism of small differences" as wedge issues.

## Activist Opportunities

by Carol Moeller

### Indivisible

Modeled after the Tea Party's successful takeover of the GOP, Indivisible South Bay has over 400 members. They can be reached on our PVP Democrats webpage here: <http://pvpdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Indivisible-South-Bay-Intro.pdf>.

Their mission is "to collectively make our voices heard by supporting democracy and opposing the Donald Trump administration's unethical, un-American and unconstitutional actions. By continual actions (i.e. attending town hall meetings, making phone calls to members of Congress), we will help regain a Democratic majority House in 2018". Since Hillary carried California districts with Republicans up for reelection, Indivisible feels all members of the California GOP are vulnerable. Darryl Issa won by only 2000 votes. Nationally, they are focused on the April 18th special election in Georgia's 6th Congressional District to replace Tom Price, who joined Trump's cabinet. Trump won that district by only one percentage point.

### Save Our Nation (SON)

On Thursdays, March 6 and 23rd, Save Our Nation meets at Coco's at 18120 Hawthorne Blvd, Hawthorne, 90504 6 pm dinner, 7 pm meeting.

Sunday March 12 from 3 pm to 5 pm is an event at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, 26825 Rolling Hills Rd., Rolling Hills Estate. Sharon Alexander from the LA South Bay Progressives created a play from the Story of Purim in the Old Testament. It is a story of a monarch who gets out of control. We should learn from history so we don't repeat it. To register for this free event, contact: 310 373 1477 or [dreyfalex@aol.com](mailto:dreyfalex@aol.com)

Saturday, March 18 from 8 am until 12 noon, the Inglewood Mormon Church is organizing a clean-up day at a Mosque and school in

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Hawthorne. This is intended to send Donald Trump a message that we support members of all faiths, including Muslims. The address is 12209 Hawthorne Way, Hawthorne, 90250. (Hawthorne Way is one block west of Hawthorne Blvd.) Please RSVP to [saharakanji@gmail.com](mailto:saharakanji@gmail.com) so that they have the right amount of lunches.

You saw on TV how constituents are challenging their GOP Congressmen, right? GOP Congressman Dana Rohrabacher is the target every Tuesday at 1 pm, where people are sitting outside his office demanding to see him. His office is 101 Main Street -#380, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

## Huddles

"First we marched, now we huddle." Huddles are meant to be a positive, inclusive, action-oriented and productive way to put the energy of the marches into action. Find opportunities on their website here: <https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/Womens-March-10-ACTIONS-100-DAYS-South-Bay-Edition/>

## Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) March and Rally

by Ann Nye

Despite the rain on Saturday, February 18th, an estimated more than 300 people gathered at Columbia Park on the 2nd anniversary of the 2015 explosion at the then ExxonMobile refinery. Coincidentally, at 6:30am that morning, the news reported a fire that shot flames 40 feet in the air and required 3 dozen firefighters to put out.!

Some people came to the rally with signs that said, "REALLY" and one shown here that says, "Congratulats PBF, 0 Days Explosion Free."



A coalition of environmental groups and community activists led by the **Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA)** spoke out to ban the use of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF) from the Torrance refinery, which was taken over by PBF.

**Congressman Ted Lieu's** tweeted statements were read by his representative:

*We need to ban MHF now. God may not warn us again. This is ridiculous. Refineries are not supposed to have explosions. Torrance refinery has had multiple fires & explosions in last two years*

Due to the weather, Assembly District Representative Al Muratsuchi couldn't fly down from Sacramento and ended up driving down to let the people know his strong stand against MHF at the Torrance and Wilmington Refineries, the only ones in California that use this hazardous chemical.

Several folks from the PV Democrats attended the March/Rally including Carol and Ron Moeller (see below).



Fired up, the dedicated participants marched down 190th St to the front of the Torrance Refinery. With support from many honking passerbys they picketed before returning to Columbia Park. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) says it expects to



formulate a RULE to ban HF by the end of 2017. However, even with the new RULE, it could still take years to phase out HF use at local refineries. TRAA hopes the HF phase out completes by Jan. 1, 2020.

## PV Dems in the News

The Peninsula News (Feb 27) published [Peninsula political clubs energized by Trump](#) by Deborah Paul. Here are some excerpts.

*Inspired by the inauguration of President*



### March 7th Election

Here are the endorsements from the LA County Democratic Party:

**Measure H** (addresses housing for the homeless): YES

#### LA Community College Seats:

**District 2** – Steve Veras  
**District 4** – Dallas Denise Fowler  
**District 6** – Gabriel Buelna

For those living in **PVE, Measure D** (parcel tax to support fire and paramedics) – YES

For those living in **Redondo Beach**, LACDP endorses the following:

**Mayor** – Bill Brand  
**City Council District 2** – Todd Loewenstein  
**Measure C** (this addresses open space protections, among other things, that were not included when voters approved the harbor development outlined previously in Measure G) – YES

There may be some items/candidates on your ballot, but those were not addressed by the LACDP.

*Donald Trump, members of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Republican Women's Federated and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democrats say their organizations have been energized.*

*Redondo Beach resident and PVP Democratic President Lynn Bommer said her group has also seen an upsurge in political interest, with membership climbing from about 130 to 160 attendees.*

*[Lynn Bommer] "The idea is that people are so concerned and want so much to resist what this administration is doing with executive orders, cabinet picks, etc. They want to know how they can have an impact," Bommer said. "Our goal has always been an educated public supporting Democratic candidates. We've become a conduit for information, a source for people who want to become more active, especially since Trump has been elected."*

*[Carol Moeller] We auctioned off the "Pink Resistance Hats — knitted by members — on the bus on the way to the Women's March in Los Angeles," .... "We ended up with \$250 which we donated to Planned Parenthood."*





### 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

Recording Secretary: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334

Corresponding Secretary: Arlene Korb 310-544-7203

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn 310-326-4953

Parliamentarian: Craig Williams 301-265-9812

Membership: Susie Boone 310-686-0455

Publicity: David Hall 310-377-7334

Newsletter Editor:

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](http://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:

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