

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## April 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**

#### APRIL MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, April 23rd

**Note - the April meeting date was delayed a week to avoid Easter**

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

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

**TOPIC:** Environmental Justice

**SPEAKER:** Jesse Marquez, CFASE

#### MAY MEETING

**DATE:** Sunday, May 21st

**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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#### April 22 is Earth Day

**Thurs, April 20** from 3-6 at the Promenade on the Peninsula, [Rolling Hills Estates Earth Day Celebration](#) - booths and environmental exhibits and giveaways will be available.

**Sat., April 22** from 9 to 4 beginning in Pershing Square is the [March for Science](#) - their moto is Science, not Silence

**Sat., April 29** from 11 to 4 at the Banning Park - Tesoro refinery in Wilmington is the [People's Climate Movement LA](#) in solidarity with the People's Climate March in Washington DC.

#### April General Meeting

On Sunday, April 23rd, the Palos Verdes Democrats will meet at 2:30 pm in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Center Library to hear from an Environmental Justice activist.

In recognition of Earth Day, it is our great honor to hear from **Jesse Marquez**, of the Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE), someone who has actually effected environmental change in the working-class community in and around his childhood home of Wilmington.

An LA Weekly article highlighting Marquez and his work carried this quote "He's quite certain of his point of view, and he makes it very forcefully," says David Freeman, former chair of the Harbor Commission, which manages the Port of L.A. "I give Jesse credit for being a visionary of sorts. The problem is, he doesn't know when to quit."

This dogged crusader was impelled to fight the corporate polluters after a defining event in his life. When he was 16 his family lived across the street from the Fletcher Oil refinery when it exploded catastrophically. His entire neighborhood was engulfed in flame. As Marquez says, "When you're a child and you experience something as tragic as that, you never forget it."

Marquez will elaborate on his life story and talk about the accomplishments of the Coalition over the years of its existence. This will be a very special program you won't want to miss.

#### Resistance

As we have been doing since the

November election, we will encourage members to share their activities and ideas for resisting the current administration. This ad hoc portion of the program has become very popular with our members.

Please join us for this exciting program or come to discuss issues with other like-minded Democrats or to enjoy our yummy homemade goodies.

#### March Meeting Report by Carol Moeller

**Alexandra Weyman**, research analyst with [UNITE HERE Local 11](#) shared that the Trump Hotel in Las Vegas is now unionized! After dragging his feet for a year after the workers voted to unionize (no surprise, Trump claimed the election was rigged), and after rulings in workers' favor by the NLRB, a 4-year union contract was finally signed. The NLRB is a federal labor authority whose ruling members will be appointed by Trump, showcasing one more conflict of interest by Trump's refusal to follow the lead of other Presidents and divest of his businesses. Weyman said, just as the reports of sexual abuse have dropped due to fear of deportation, so have many workers stopped attempting to organize.



**Alexandra Weyman**,  
[UNITE HERE Local 11](#)  
research analyst

**Nereyda Soto**, one of the local workers who spoke, fought for unionization for over 4 years and until her hotel became unionized, she was making minimum wage. When her hotel became

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unionized, her salary jumped to \$16/hour, she received health insurance and is now able to have much more of a say in her job. She and her union-represented husband were then able to purchase a home.



Nereyda Soto (on left) and Rachele Smith, UNITE HERE 11 union members

Rachele Smith, another hotel worker, was suspended for trying to unionize the hotel where she worked, but took her cause to the NLRB, and after a year, she got her job back and her hotel eventually became unionized.

Locally, Doubletree and Hyatt Hotels are unionized, but the Westin, Hilton, and Renaissance hotels are not. Only 30% of the hotels in LA County are unionized and the only unionized hotel in the 66th AD is the Manhattan Beach Marriott. Find out which hotels to patronize at [www.fairhotel.org](http://www.fairhotel.org)

Elected in 2014 to represent the 26th SD, State Senator Ben Allen is Chairman of the Education Committee, Vice-Chair of the Defense & Aerospace Committee, and is a member of the Transportation, Elections and Natural Resources committees.



CA State Senator Ben Allen, 26th Senate District

In concert with other Democrats in the legislature, Senator Allen has increased the minimum wage, expanded pay equality, upped school funding and increased the rainy day fund, among many other accomplishments.

He authored SB 50, which discourages the sale of federal public lands in California by the federal government by specifying that the state must give the right of first refusal or the right to arrange the transfer to a third party.

He also authored SB 888 in response to the Aliso Canyon leak and SB 651, which is a disclose act for circulating petitions, and co-authored SB 810, the California Single Payer bill, and SB 450, which expands registration and voting options.

He supports SB 49, the Environmental and Workers Defense Act of 2017, and SB 54, the California Values Act. The latter prevents the use of state and local public resources to aid ICE agents in deportation actions, although in response to a question from a representative from Indivisible, Sen. Allen said he is hoping for clarification of the language in support of law enforcement's efforts to protect citizens.

He has been a major force behind AB 14, the DISCLOSE ACT, and in fact has been named the California legislator with the highest clean money score by the California Clean Money Campaign.

Senator Allen encourages forming "sister clubs" to help efforts in districts currently represented by Republicans to turn their districts blue. He particularly targets Steve Knight in our neighboring 25th CD and Darrell Issa in Orange County's 49th CD.

## GMO Rebuttal

by Wes Bradford

Ed. Note: Our Jan 2017 meeting featured Tony Hale speaking on behalf of Genetically Modified Organisms in our food supply. Due to the heated discussion this generated, we invited rebuttals. Read the GMO debate blog on our website: <http://pvpdemocrats.org/2017/03/30/the-gmo-debate/>

Our Democratic Club's recent meeting program on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's), an important subject for public information, turned out instead to be a shocking example of the Pesticide-Pollution industry's profiteering disinformation agenda (Alternate Facts become "True" if repeated often enough).

The corporate marketing campaign promoting GMO seeds (for crops resistant to their pesticides) is so the crops can be sprayed with their profitable poisons before harvest to eradicate the weeds without killing the crops. Nobody drops dead after eating these pesticide-poisoned foods (so far), so the crops must be "safe". (GMO itself is not the real issue here.)

The real motive of the Poisoning-Industrial Complex is to convince us that poisoning our food with pesticides is OK. These pesticides build up in the soil and are taken up by the roots of future crops as well as in the water runoff that becomes our drinking water and the environment for fish. (Not surprisingly, resistant superweeds are now proliferating.) Even "Organic" foods are now becoming contaminated. This is an uncontrolled experiment on the future health of humanity, for corporate profits, and protected by lobbyists buying politicians with reelection campaign bribery money. We've seen this movie before (the Fossil Fuels industry's Climate Change disinformation, and the Tobacco industry's "Smoking is safe" propaganda until caught lying through their teeth under oath before Congressional Committees).

This slick corporate PowerPoint presentation's disinformation included these false analogies: Plants were modified thousands of years ago in the Dawn of Agriculture, so poisoning our food is OK. There are already poisons in nature (poison ivy, mushrooms, etc.), so poisoning our food is OK. The Agricultural Revolution is helping to feed the starving millions, so

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poisoning our food is OK.

The PubMed website ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/)) shows >25,000 citations on Pesticides and Health, and almost 2000 citations (beginning in 1969) on Pesticides and Parkinson's Disease. The clear consensus of these legitimate published scientists here is that pesticides are harmful to health (contradicting the bought-and-paid-for corporate "scientists", whose conclusions are marketed to the public in palatable form by professional marketing psychologists). We were told that "there is no evidence", and that opposition to GMO's (read "Pesticides") was "emotional"; however, anger is an appropriate response to deliberate self-serving corporate deception at the expense of the public's health.

Health effects of pesticides are synergistic (reinforcing each other), and the average American now carries several hundred of them. These molecules don't just inhibit an enzyme; they infiltrate and disrupt cell membranes, mitochondrial membranes and nerve myelin sheaths throughout the body. All life on earth depends on the dynamic functioning of cell membranes. Pesticides have been shown to be important contributors to the increasing epidemics of obesity, autoimmune diseases, and neurodegenerative diseases. (These diseases were virtually nonexistent before the Industrial Age. Do you know anyone who has one of them now?)

The cover article in the current issue of the Environmental Defense Fund publication shows how some Midwest farmers are helping to save Monarch butterflies from extinction by avoiding glyphosate (Roundup) applications along their migration pathways. A number of (more civilized) countries have banned this pesticide. Monsanto was sued in France for false advertising (for claiming that "Roundup is safe"), and the verdict was upheld by the French Supreme Court. Nonetheless, lobbyists and marketing specialists are swarming over the world trying to get the best corporate deal in as many countries as they can. The real issue is pesticides, not GMO's. This slick deceptive corporate presentation was a betrayal of our Democratic Club's progressive values.

**Parkinson's Disease: Potential risk factors include environmental toxins, drugs, pesticides,** brain microtrauma, focal cerebrovascular damage, and genomic defects. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2017 Mar 4;18(3). pii: E551. doi:

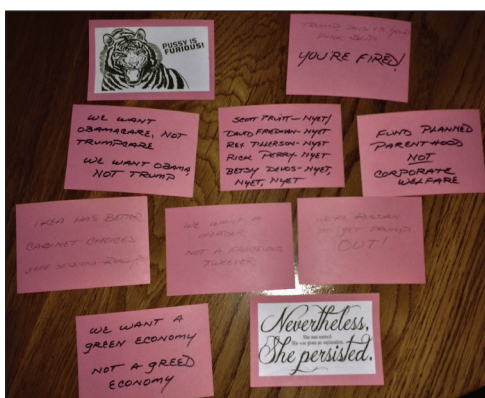
10.3390/ijms18030551

**Scientific American**, August 1, 2009 (Editors): "Do Seed Companies Control GM Crop Research? Scientists must ask corporations for permission before publishing independent research on genetically modified crops because user agreements have explicitly forbidden the use of the seeds for any independent research under the threat of litigation. Unfortunately, they have made it impossible to verify that genetically modified crops perform as advertised. Agritech companies have given themselves veto power over the work of independent researchers."

## Ides of Trump Postcard Campaign

by Carol Moeller

A March 15th postcard writing campaign aimed to deluge President Trump with messages of opposition became a worldwide event. PV Dems President, Lynn Bommer, bought 1000 pink postcards printed with the White House address, and gave them out at an event hosted by member Rascha Hall and also at a large standing room only event hosted by Indivisible. She offered postcard stamps for sale and collected and mailed in 930 stamped cards, complete with messages to Trump. Among the favorite messages were: "Consider this your pink slip: YOU'RE FIRED!", and "Jeff Sessions, Nyet; Rick Perry, Nyet; Scott Pruitt, Nyet; Rex Tillerson, Nyet; Betsy DeVos, Nyet, Nyet, Nyet!" and "We need a Leader, not a Tweeter!"



The White House is not disclosing the numbers received, but the goal was 1 million, and since post offices around the country actually ran out of stamps appropriate for postcards, we are certain the numbers were way, way over that. One reason for this activity was to provide an avenue for activism.

A note left at Rascha's reads as follows: "Dear David & Rascha, I'm so glad you sponsored the card writing event. It gave me a chance to explore my thinking about national issues. I would not have written my thoughts down otherwise. Tony W."

## Book Review - Unwarranted – Policing Without Permission by Barry Friedman

by Sally Moite



Government surveillance programs and police use of force have been in the news. How should the police go about investigating and preventing crime? What searches are lawful? How should we be protected from terrorist threats? What are issues with new technology? How should law enforcement, legislatures, courts, and we the public keep us safe from criminals and terrorists, while protecting our rights and freedoms?

This timely and sometimes scary book describes problems, and explains how to understand the issues and improve policies. Constitutional protections, no-fly list, stop and frisk, profiling, warrants and searches, predictive policing, drones, and your data in the cloud are among the topics it covers.

## Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2017-2018

**Member vote on this slate will take place prior to the assumption of office in July**

President: Lynn Bommer

President Emeritus: Carol Moeller

1st Vice President: Rascha Hall

2nd Vice President: Megan Crawford,

Recording Secretary: Kathy Bradford

Corresponding Secretary: Arlene Korb

Treasurer: Al Shadbourn

Parliamentarian: Craig Williams

Membership: Connie Sullivan

Publicity: David Hall

Newsletter Editor: Carol Moeller

Hospitality: Teresa Savo

Web Master: Reggie Jue



**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 Shadbourne 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 \_\_\_\_\_  I am a registered Democrat  
 I am registered No Party Preference  
 Name\* \_\_\_\_\_  I am a registered Democrat  
 I am registered No Party Preference  
 \* 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

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

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