

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

June 2015 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

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Sunday, June 14th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

Please note this is the second Sunday in June, a week before Father's Day

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

TOPICS:

Carbon Fee and Dividend & Community Choice Aggregation

2015 CALIFORNIA State Democratic Convention

SPEAKERS:

Edric Guise, Citizens' Climate Lobby & Joe Galliani, 350.org

PV Dem Delegates Kay Jue, Connie Sullivan, Teresa Savo, Stacey Michaels and Carol Moeller

JULY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, July 19th

TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Private home

TOPIC: Annual party and installation of officers

SPEAKERS: TBD

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If you have something you'd like to donate to our monthly fundraiser drawing, please e-mail Carol at rpvdem@gmail.com.

June Meeting

PLEASE NOTE: JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, JUNE 14

Carbon Fee and Dividend

Edric Guise is a volunteer with the Long Beach/South Bay Citizen's Climate Lobby, which is a non-partisan group that is proposing answers to the problems associated with over-dependence on carbon-based fuels. Their solution is "Carbon Fee and Dividend", which would install a federal price, eventually reflecting the true societal costs, onto fossil fuels at their source. These fees would initially be calculated at \$15/ton of carbon, or carbon equivalent emissions, and would go up at least \$10/ton each year. The collected fees would then be distributed on a per capita basis to all American households (although children under 18 will receive only half, with a limit of 2 child payments per family). To insure US trade competitiveness, goods entering the US from countries without such fees will be charged Carbon-Fee-Equivalent Tariffs. This approach has been praised by both climate scientists and economists as a first step to help reduce the main cause of global warming.

Joe Galliani is the local organizer for 350.org, Bill McKibben's global climate movement. In that role, he heads or participates in a number of carbon reduction and environmental initiatives of interest to those of us living in the South Bay.

Joe convenes a group known as the South Bay Clean Power Working Group, dedicated to starting a Community Choice Aggregation program in our area. Such a program will deliver electricity from clean sources to our homes through the regular electricity grid. He also is a member of the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance that formed after the February ExxonMobil refinery explosion.

What happened at the 2015 California State Democratic Convention?

Connie Sullivan, Brian Flannigan, Kay Jue, Stacey Michaels Teresa Savo and Carol Moeller attended the May 15-17 convention in Anaheim as delegates, and will share what they felt were the most important issues. Non-election year conventions are sometimes thought of as non-essential, but many of the issues hotly debated during election years have their origins in these lower-key gatherings.

May Meeting Report

by Connie Sullivan

President Carol Moeller called the meeting to order and introduced our first order of business, the election of our slate of officers for the 2015-16 club year.

The following slate was presented to our members for their consideration and vote.

President: Carol Moeller

1st VP: vacant

2nd VP: Lynn Bommer

Recording Secretary: Judy Pang

Corresponding Secretary: Sheila Papayans

Treasurer: Al Shadbourne

Parliamentarian: Maria Martinez

Current Parliamentarian Teresa Savo conducted the election, and the slate was elected.

Then Carol read off the names of the standing committee chairs.

Membership: Susie Boone

Newsletter Editor: Laura Hynes-Jergens

Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye

Hospitality: Teresa Savo and Marta Leipzig

Publicity: Vacant

Electronic media: Brian Flannigan

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Newsletter mailing: Ron Moeller
Precinct Captain: Connie Sullivan
President Emeritus: Connie Sullivan
Associate Member of LACDP: Stacey Michaels



Welcome to our new PV
Democrats President,
Carol Moeller

Carol then presented suggested bylaws changes required by California Democratic Party changes regarding when and how delegates to the preconvention endorsement caucuses are selected. Teresa Savo conducted the vote and the bylaws changes passed.

Movie: Pay2Play: Democracy's High Stakes
A film by John Wellington Ennis

The main event of the May meeting was the showing of the film entitled Pay2Play: Democracy's High Stakes. The theme of the film is that paying politicians to gain some special favors or benefits for big business has become just a typical business expense.

The filmmaker, Ennis, structures his film around the board game, Monopoly.

Ennis, like most of us, grew up playing Monopoly and asks, "What did it teach us?" The last player wins by violating all kinds of rules and laws, such as the anti-trust laws, etc.

The game teaches us that cheating is the path to victory in business.

Then the film switches to the intersection of business and politics, where now money rules through the pay-to-play, quid pro quo environment we find ourselves in these days.

The first example Ennis highlights is the Ohio scandal in which a state official in Ohio (Tom Noe) invested state workers compensation money in his own rare coin business. He had become a state official by giving large amounts of money to elected officials. He engaged in kickbacks to other state officials. Noe was convicted, but others get away with it.

Many notables were interviewed and appear throughout the film to highlight various points the filmmaker makes. Some of these are: Marianne Williamson, Robert Reich, Thom Hartmann, John Nichols, Van Jones, and Noam Chomsky.

At one point Ennis asks, "Does our democracy still serve the people?"

In response Marianne Williamson says, "The parties are two factions of one party—the Business Party." (I don't agree with this, by the way. I feel the Republicans are perfectly happy with the current state of affairs, but the Democrats participate because it's a necessity, not because they like the current system.)

Williamson further states it's no longer left vs. right but insiders vs. outsiders.

Several examples of those who attempted to run for office and were not insiders appear in the film. One was Paul Hackett, Gulf War veteran ran for Congress in Ohio running against the War. He raised all his money from small donors. Hackett seemed to be winning

until the last county to be counted (his opponent's home) stopped counting. When they began to count again, his opponent lost so badly there, he lost. There were questions swirling about the count, but nothing could ever be proved.

Then the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision made things even worse by removing limits on soft money donations to super PACs.

This ruling greatly increased the disparity between an individual's speech and a corporation's speech. Amazingly, Justices Scalia and Thomas appeared at the Koch brothers retreat at their desert estate just before Citizens United was decided.

The film then turned to the story of the maker of the Anti-Monopoly game who was sued by Parker Bros. claiming trademark infringement. Ironically, Parker Bros. stole the original Monopoly game in the first place. It was originally made by a teacher to show that business monopoly distorts our economy, not by the person Parker Bros. bought it from. The Anti-Monopoly inventor won.

The film later highlights street art as a way of raising conscientiousness about our Pay2Play society. He befriends a street artist and follows him around Los Angeles at night as he applies his posters to street infrastructure.

In the final scene, Ennis places a large Monopoly board that covers an entire downtown LA intersection on the day of the May Day demonstrations so that the maximum number of people will see it and have their consciousness raised about this important issue.

Results of Drawing for tickets to Janice Hahn Fundraiser

Four lucky people: Lynn Michaels, Barbara Epstein, Diane Gonzales and Maria Martinez won tickets to the June 7 fundraiser for Janice Hahn's candidacy for the 4th Supervisorial District.



Lynne Michaels is a lucky winner of a ticket to June 7 Fundraiser for Janice Hahn.

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Senator Elizabeth Warren Speaks at CA Democratic Convention

by Brian Flannigan

On Saturday, May 16, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) spoke at the California Democratic Convention, and she came out swinging! She called on all of us Democrats to roll up our sleeves and fight—fight to protect middle and working class families from the greed and abuse of large corporations and big banks. She called for a raise in the minimum wage, paid leave, support for organized labor, a stop to the fast track of the TPP, and more. But, what was so amazing about Warren’s speech wasn’t just her ability to pinpoint what to fight for, but also



Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

her ability to impassion a room full of people to fight with her.

Additionally, Senator Warren gave a special shout out to our Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein who have fought tirelessly with her in the Senate and Leader Nancy Pelosi who fights day after day against the Republicans in the House.

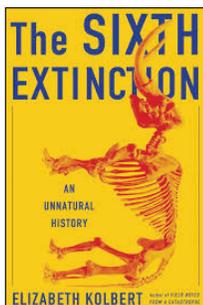
Senator Warren’s speech is worth watching, and a link has been included below. The California Democratic Party has posted other videos from the Convention as well, including a speech by Leader Nancy Pelosi.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjyBq1KhNg0>

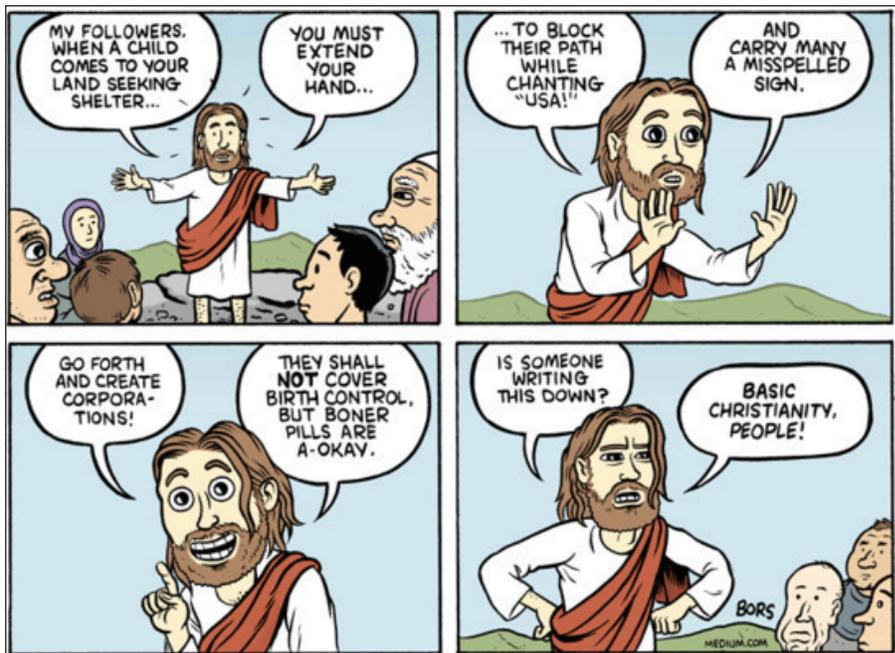
Book Review

by Carol Moeller

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History
by Elizabeth Kolbert



Noting the recent precipitous global decline in amphibians, which survived previous



catastrophic events over eons, Kolbert provides numerous additional examples of current plant and animal declines. She points to accepted scientific evidence of five previous global mass extinctions, all due to exceptional natural phenomena like giant asteroids, colossal volcanic eruptions and glaciation. However, in our current circumstance, Kolbert says human activity is causing domino effect extinctions that will result in 30% or more of current life forms becoming extinct. Her case studies show the contraction of the diversity of life is already underway. While we still have the power to stop some of this, she urges us to do so, and points to what we can do right now to prevent a worst case scenario.

US Congress Representative Ted Lieu Making Us Proud

by Connie Sullivan

Last November we elected Ted Lieu to the US Congress House of Representatives. He arrived in Washington, DC in January and really hit the ground running! First, he was elected president of the incoming class of congressional Democrats, as his classmates recognized his obvious leadership, intelligence, commitment to the important issues of our time, and readiness for office.

Ted Lieu has not disappointed. In some cases his legislative initiatives extend work he did in our state legislature to the US Congress. He’s put forth legislation to ban gay reparative

therapy and brand such therapy a fraud (are you listening Marcus Bachmann?)

On Earth Day he put forth climate change legislation based upon California’s AB32 – the Cap and Trade law passed by our CA legislature



Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA)

a few years ago that he coauthored and that just went into effect last year. That law, according to Lieu is resulting in new jobs for skilled workers to develop processes that meet the requirements of the new law.

But he hasn’t merely introduced legislation based on California laws. He’s leading the charge against the bulk collection of US citizens’ phone records by the National Security Agency, a promise he made in the 2014 campaign for Congress. He’s following through on that promise.

In short, we can be very proud we sent such a good representative to congress and that we sent someone who will very easily fill the shoes of Henry Waxman.

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PVPDC Officers for 2015 Contact Info



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

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

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 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event