

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

## November 2014 Newsletter

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

### COMING EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

**DATE:** November 16th

**TIME:** 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Peninsula Center Library  
701 Silver Spur Rd., RHE 90274

**TOPICS:** Election Summary; Fair Trade and  
Buying Locally: Voting with your Wallet

**SPEAKERS:**

Sergio Carrillo, CDP Region 16 Director

Joan Harper, Fair Trade LA

Jane Alfonso, Ten Thousand Villages,  
Redondo Beach

Eileen Hupp, President and CEO of the  
Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce

#### NO DECEMBER MEETING

#### JANUARY MEETING

**DATE:** TBD

**TIME:** TBD

**LOCATION:** TBD

**TOPIC:** TBD

**SPEAKER:** Governor Michael Dukakis

#### Inside This Month's Issue:

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*Do you have something  
you'd like to donate to our  
monthly fundraiser drawing;  
like a plant or memorabilia?*

*If so, please e-mail Carol  
at [rpvdem@gmail.com](mailto:rpvdem@gmail.com).*

#### Fair Trade and Buying Locally: Voting with your Wallet and Nov Election Wrap-up

As we enter the holiday buying season, we look to our socially conscious PV Democrats to consider purchases as an extension of their beliefs in a more sustainable world. Consumers have choices that can encourage bargain-basement, starvation-level reimbursements that retailers like Walmart pay the majority of the creators of their products while obscenely increasing profits for their owners. Alternatively, shoppers can choose to buy items at establishments that provide artisans with sustainable wages under environmentally healthy conditions and also choose to buy from local businesses to help sustain our local economy. Consider holiday purchases to be more than nice gifts: consider them also to be vehicles through which you can encourage a more equitable planet.

Our November 16th meeting will feature Joan Harper of Fair Trade LA. Unique handcrafted items from rural communities inspired Joan to start this organization along with four others interested in promoting Fair Trade in the Los Angeles region. According to their website, Fair Trade:

- demands equality, respect, and sustainability at all levels of society.
- addresses poverty in developing countries by offering alternatives to sweatshop employment.
- enables indigenous artisans, workers and farmers to develop sustainable livelihoods in their traditional rural environments through worker-owned cooperatives and family farms, and helps them develop skills to manage their enterprises.
- provides sustainable wages in a local context.
- promotes safe, humane working conditions.
- pays fairly and promptly.
- promotes equity in world trade.
- protects children from exploitation.

• cultivates environmental stewardship and respects cultural identity.

We will also hear from another Fair Trade organization; Ten Thousand Villages, Redondo Beach. Jane Alphonso is a board member and financial officer of this non-profit Fair Trade organization. The parent company is one of the oldest and largest fair trade organizations in the world representing more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries, with a network of over 390 retail outlets throughout the United States.

Additionally, we will hear from PV Democrats member Eileen Hupp, President and CEO of the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce. She will provide us with another vehicle for voting with our wallets: buying locally to directly strengthen the economy of our neighborhoods.

Our meeting will include handouts listing local fair trade stores as well as fair trade items that can be purchased in regular retail establishments like Trader Joe's. We will also be given information about local businesses. Our goal is to enable all of you who believe in strengthening our local economies as well as promoting economic and social justice to more easily vote with your wallets.

We will also hear from Sergio Carrillo, Director, Region 16 of the California Democratic Party. Regional Directors represent between three to five Assembly Districts, are elected for two-year terms and one of their functions is to serve as liaisons between the California Democratic Party and the Democratic Clubs. Sergio will give us an official election wrap up; at press time we are hopeful we will all be celebrating the results!

#### October Meeting Report by Connie Sullivan

President Carol Moeller called the meeting to order. She began by asking us to save a very important date, November 9, for a dinner to

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honor Congressman Henry Waxman. Details will follow soon.

Some members wanted guidance on how to vote on the judges we find on our November ballot. Kay Jue reported the LA County Democratic Party supports the Supreme Court Justices retaining their seats.

**Ben Allen** and **Sandra Fluke**, candidates for State Senator of the 26th District, spoke separately to our group and answered a series of questions submitted ahead of time by our membership. I've combined their responses to highlight where they differ and where they concur on issues.

Ben Allen started by providing his biography – he grew up in Santa Monica, parents are educators, Harvard undergraduate degree, worked in D.C. , attended Boalt Hall law school, served as a student representative on the U.C. Board of Regents, is currently a UCLA Santa Monica-Malibu School Board member.



*State Senate Candidate Ben Allen*

Sandra Fluke reminded us she was first thrust onto the scene by being attacked by Rush Limbaugh for her advocacy of women's health care before a congressional panel. That incident shows how she behaves under fire and her resolve to speak about issues important to her. But that alone doesn't qualify her to be in the senate. She has real policy experience working with the state legislature on the issues she cares about.

She went on to say that she's proud of the way she's funded her campaign with 85% of

her funders giving \$250 or less.



*Club member and Library District Trustee, Kay Jue (left) and State Senate Candidate Sandra Fluke at the LA County Democratic Party's Roosevelt Dinner, October 19*

Their answers to our member-submitted questions follow:

*Q: What is your position on the top-two primary?*

Ben: Sees pro's and cons and wants to see how it works out before he takes a position on it.

Sandra: Has taken a firm position against it and believes it funnels even more money into the political process as this race shows. Both the primary and general election require large sums of money to mount effective campaigns.

*Q: What do you feel are the most important programs Ted Lieu supported and how do you plan to continue his legacy?*

Ben: Would like to continue Ted's work on banking issues, on animal rights issues, and on climate change.

Sandra: Two of the issues Ted worked on that she particularly likes were making sure transgender students didn't suffer discrimination and passing a ban on gay

## REMEMBER to Vote November 4th!

reparative therapy. She asked Ted what she could carry on for him and he mentioned he had wanted to do something about solitary confinement. And she would like to do that.

*Q: What is your position on term limits?*

Ben and Sandra agreed the current version is better than the prior one and that term limits have made special interests more powerful.

*Q: Will you work to provide funding for the arts?*

Ben: Yes, innovation, creativity and outside-the-box thinking will be more important in the future and that's where teaching arts is so important.

Sandra: Arts funding is a problem within the local control funding formula and Common Core. Common Core curriculum doesn't leave an adequate amount of time for the arts. Yes, she would support more funding for the arts.

*Q: How would you pay for more arts funding?*

Ben: Would like to see us extend Prop 30 and would like to lower the threshold for passage of funding measures with a provision that voters could reverse it if their school board doesn't spend the money as intended.

Sandra: Would want to see an extension of Prop 30 and do some specific things around funding then or do some things around the Common Core.

*Q: What changes would you make to Prop 13?*

Ben and Sandra agreed that a split roll property tax system would make sense, but would have to be done gradually. Both also agree that the 2/3 threshold for local funding initiatives should be reduced.

*Q: What part do you see charter schools playing in our education system?*

Ben: There are good charters and bad ones and we can learn from the good ones. However, there is no incentive on the part of charter schools to attract costly special needs students. And there is no mechanism in the current charter schools law to crack down on the fly-by-night charter schools.

Sandra: Dependent charter schools (formed by the school district) can offer diversity and that's a positive thing. We need adequate regulation of the independent charter schools

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because they skim off the most dedicated parents and children. She's not certain that charter schools can deny admission to disabled children because of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*Q: What would you do to improve financing of political campaigns?*

Ben: Would support a ban on contributions in the last 100 days of the legislative session. He supports the Disclose Act, which failed this legislative session. Lastly, he supports public financing of campaigns.

Sandra: Favors public funding of campaigns and matching grants so candidates wouldn't be as beholden to wealthy donors and would disavow any independent expenditure made on her behalf.

*Q: Can you explain voluntary campaign limits?*

Ben and Sandra explained that if a candidate agrees to certain campaign spending limits they can then pay an extra \$10,000 to have their ballot statement printed in the sample ballot. He paid the fee and she did not.

*Follow up question for Ben: What about independent expenditures?* He says under current law supporters can pay for campaign materials over which candidates have no control. It can help or hurt a candidate.

Our next speaker was **Dinah Stevens**, who heads the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project in Los Angeles. Dinah went over recent history on the assault on women's reproductive rights.

In 2010, the country elected a lot of people with a clear agenda to stop all types of reproductive health measures, not just abortion. Fortunately, the Democratic Senate stopped them.

So states began picking up the ball on chipping away at reproductive rights. Texas is a good example of the tactics states are using. First, they tried to directly de-fund Planned Parenthood. But that wasn't legal. So, then Texas rejected the federal money for all women's health programs in order to de-fund Planned Parenthood. Texas reduced the number of women's health clinics by 2/3 through the loss of this funding.

Another tactic is passing Targeted Regulations against Abortion Providers laws. TRAP laws

require abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Then they deny them the privileges.

The new frontier is health insurance. The Affordable Care Act provided free women's preventive care, including birth control.

Then the Supreme Court issued the Hobby Lobby decision. With this decision (which said closely held corporations have religious rights and don't have to provide insurance coverage for certain forms of birth control) we are left to wonder what can an employer tell you or provide you when it comes to health care? Are blood transfusions next?

In 2012, many politicians sought Planned Parenthood's endorsement, which was a new thing. Also, many Republican candidates lost races when they made outlandish claims such as "legitimate rape", etc.

How do we harness that power and use it in 2014?

Colorado's right-wing Republican Senate candidate recognizes birth control is a winning issue, so he's proposing birth control be provided over the counter.

Dinah asked what have we learned since 2011 when she spoke to our club last? Planned Parenthood learned they could win. In Mississippi they beat back the Personhood Amendment. "It's our job to keep moving women's rights forward."

How we talk about abortion has evolved. In Mississippi a woman would say she's pro-life, but wouldn't want to tell another woman what to do with her body. That's the definition of pro-choice! So, the definition of pro-choice has evolved.

Dinah ended her talk on this positive note about Planned Parenthood's new research project where women are going door-to-door talking to women about abortion and then studying how the conversation affects attitudes. The job of women's rights advocates is not

to shy away from the abortion and birth control contraceptives topic, but to talk about it; even in a political context.

**Harold Williams** spoke briefly about his candidacy for board member of the West Basin Water District, Division 1. He is endorsed by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. He is a former city council member in Carson and a public works manager for several South Bay cities.

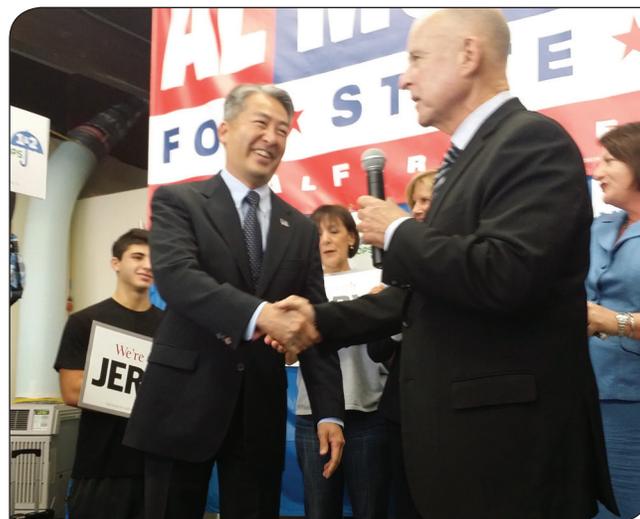
### The Day Phone Banking Really Paid Off by Connie Sullivan

I've been phone banking once a week at the Ted Lieu for Congress campaign Torrance office. One week I was asked to go to the Venice office instead of the Torrance office because Congressman Steve Israel, chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee was going to visit and they'd like to have a lot of people there.

So I went. And phone banked and listened to Senator Lieu and the Congressman give speeches that I don't recall any more. And then Israel announced that a very special person would be arriving soon and of course, we each hoped it would be the President, but couldn't believe it would actually be him. But it was!

He went around the room and spoke to every person. It was very special and I won't ever forget it.

See what can happen when you phone bank?



CA Governor Jerry Brown visiting Al Muratsuchi's Campaign Office in Torrance October 28th

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P.O. Box 2234,  
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Palos Verdes Democrats  
 Founded 1952

# 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

**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  
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