

Palos Verdes Democrats

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Paul Conrad

May 2014 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

MAY MEETING

Date: May 18, 2014

Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Something for Everyone

SPEAKERS: Sona Coffee, Daniel Rosove

JUNE MEETING

DATE: June 15, 2014 (Fathers Day)

TIME: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: TBD

SPEAKER: TBD

May 18 Meeting: Something for Everybody -- What One Local City is Doing About the Environment and An Approach to Mideast Peace

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL BE MEETING IN THE STAFF LOUNGE AT THE LIBRARY

Due to a scheduling mix up, we will be meeting in the Peninsula Center Library's staff lounge, not the community room. The staff lounge can be accessed through the second-floor parking garage (one level down from the community room).

On Sunday, May 18 we will begin by hearing from several candidates running for judge on the June 3 primary ballot. We like to have these candidates come to the meetings as a service to our members, because it's so hard to make an informed choice when confronted with the lengthy ballot. There are many open judgeships this year because the Governor didn't make many appointments when vacancies occurred.

Then our first invited guest will be Sona Kalapura Coffee, who serves as Manhattan Beach's environmental programs manager. Under her management the city has enacted several green policies, including a plastic bag ban, a smoking in public ban and a ban on the use of polystyrene products by restaurants. Most recently she organized the MB2025 Forum and launched Manhattan Beach's effort to convert entirely to renewable energy. Coffee recently received the Green Leadership Award from the L A County Board of Supervisors in recognition of her work.

And then for something completely different, we'll hear from Daniel Rosove of J Street, which bills itself as "the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans fighting for the future of

Israel as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people. We believe that Israel's Jewish and democratic character depend on a two-state solution, resulting in a Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security."

J Street believes that being pro-Israel doesn't require supporting every policy of its government. This stand appears to set J Street apart from the other, better-known pro-Israel lobbying group, AIPAC.

At this writing we are still trying to contact AIPAC to send a representative so we can hear about their differing approach to Mideast peace.

Should be an interesting meeting that you won't want to miss. So please come and hear what our speakers have to say, enjoy the company of other Democrats, partake of the yummy refreshments and try to win our raffle.

April Meeting Report

By Marta Leipzig

More Candidates Dropped By To Introduce Themselves to The Club

PV Democrats are evidently on the A List for candidates in the fast-approaching June 3 elections. Wanting to get the word out about their campaigns, Steve Klaif and Jeffrey Prang opened our April 13 meeting with personal presentations.

Steve Klaif, running for Superior Court Judge, Seat 113 spoke first. "I'm the only candidate with judicial experience and that makes me the most qualified for this position."

A Colgate University graduate, Klaif attended American University Washington College of Law in DC. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1979 and has lived here ever since.

As a Superior Court Referee in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Courts, Klaif has presided over a

Inside This Month's Issue:

May Membership Meeting
Announcement Page 1

April Meeting Report Page 1-3

Board Positions Page 3

**Remember to vote on
Tuesday, June 3!**

continued from page 1



Steve Klaif, Superior Court Judge candidate

large number of juvenile adjudications making decisions to fairly and compassionately protect children and families.

Klaif said he is known for his sound hearings, even temperament, and his ability to handle a large calendar efficiently, which is especially critical with new budget cuts.

Visit www.stevenklaifforjudge.com for more information

Jeffrey Prang, running for Los Angeles County Assessor, introduced himself as a progressive elected official with more than 18 years of experience. Recently endorsed by the L.A. Federation of Labor, Prang has a long history in local government . First elected to



Jeffrey Prang, candidate for LA County Assessor

the West Hollywood City Council in 1997, he was reelected four times and served as Mayor from 2000 to 2013. While Prang acknowledged lots of people don't think of the County Assessor position as being a glamorous role, he explained he thinks it's a job of utmost importance.

"Education, public health, and so many other areas of local government are directly impacted by the competency of the Assessor's office," he said.

Prang currently serves on the Executive Staff in the L.A. County Assessor's Office and

says this experience has given him a true understanding of how to improve efficiency across the board.

Prang is the endorsed candidate of the L.A. County Democratic Party.

"The next Assessor needs to urgently address the outdated technology currently being used," Prang said. Once digitized, much of the data would be electronically accessible to the public.

Read more about Jeffrey Prang at www.jeffreyprang.com.

Understanding the Plight of the DREAMers:

Two speakers shared personal insights on the hottest topics in immigration reform



Miguel Quintero and Maria Elena Martinez, immigration reform activists

The name DREAMers evolved from the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which was introduced in Congress over a decade ago, but never passed. The legislation was specifically aimed at aiding children of undocumented parents who grew up in the U.S. and graduated from American high schools but who were denied rights to higher education and work permits. These young individuals became known as DREAMers. The DREAMer movement has transformed the national immigration rights debate from the early 2000s to the present and continues to gain momentum.

Maria Elena Martinez, a strong voice in academics, history, journalism and civil rights along with student leader Miguel Quintero presented their moving life experiences as activists supporting immigration reform.

The daughter of immigrants, Martinez who has taught at El Camino Compton Center and serves on the editorial board for *Tribuno del Pueblo* grew up in Compton where her father

worked nearby in the shipyards. "My dad was undocumented and barely spoke English when he arrived here, but he was able to work on aircraft carriers and provide for my family." Because of his strong work ethic and skills he learned along the way, her father was able to buy a home, car, and help send his daughter to UCLA.

Martinez credited Ronald Reagan for making this possible when he signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986. His legislation created a pathway to citizenship for more than 3 million undocumented immigrants living in the US at the time.

"But look what's happening now," she said. "Why can't high achieving American-born students born to undocumented parents have the opportunity to do what my father did? Why can't these kids be part of the American dream?" Martinez asked.

Turning to Quintero, she invited him to tell his story.

He explained he, himself, is currently an undocumented college student.

"In 2000 my mother realized things were changing in my country and she made the big decision to move to the U.S. I remember feeling worried about what our new life would be like and how I would get along knowing only Spanish. But then I looked at my friend who spent half a day picking peppers in the fields just to afford a jug of milk. Now I'm so grateful for what my mother did," Quintero said.

"I graduated Salutatorian of my high school class," he continued," but because of my undocumented status I could not attend college or apply for student loans." He spent the next two years working in Compton and becoming active in immigration reform issues.

Martinez and Quintero took turns pointing out events and issues that are most critical in their movement right now:

- The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) is generously contributing time and resources to immigration reform especially to support undocumented youth.

- The Trinational Coalition is joining with teachers and education activists from Mexico, Canada and the U.S. to review the struggle to defend public education in the post-NAFTA era.

- Some activists in the movement have started referring to Obama as "Deporter in

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

New PV Dems Board Update		
Board Positions	Current	Candidate
President	Connie Sullivan	Carol Moeller
First VP (President-elect)	Carol Moeller	<i>Vacant</i>
2 nd Vice President	Carl Muchnick	Lynn Bommer
2 nd Vice President	Tom Long	<i>Vacant</i>
Recording Secretary	Judy Pang	Judy Pang
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Papayans	Sheila Papayans
Treasurer	Shuja Oberoi	Al Shadbourne
Parliamentarian	Teresa Savo	Teresa Savo
Mailings	Ron Moeller	Ron Moeller
Membership Chair	Al Shadbourne	Suzie Boone
Publicity Chair	Brent Humber	Paul and Margaret Paez
Electronic Media Manage	Brian Flannigan	Brian Flannigan
Phone Tree Chair	Jim Hamilton	<i>Vacant, but may delete position</i>
Newsletter Editor	Marta Leipzig	Jerry Parker
Newsletter Designer	Jocelyn Wilson	Ann Nye (will start in the fall)
Hospitality Chair	Lynn Bommer	<i>Vacant</i>
Associate Member LACDP	Brian Flannigan	<i>Vacant</i>

digital world is destroying more jobs than creating new ones.

- Joblessness is not just an immigrant issue; it's part of the struggle facing all workers in today's economy.

- A fear is spreading among college students that regardless of their race or immigration status they will have problems finding jobs suited to their level of education.

"Now we're all in the same boat," said Quintero.

Quintero explained that in June 2012 the Obama administration announced a deferred action plan that would offer many DREAM Act-eligible youth a temporary shield from deportation.

Undocumented young people who arrived in the U.S. before age 16, are younger than 30, have been in the U.S for at least 5 consecutive years, have no criminal history, graduated from a U.S. high school or earned a GED, or served in the military will be considered for deferred action for two years meaning they would be immune to deportation. These individuals could also qualify for work permits.

"This policy has helped, but it's only temporary and may be creating false hope," said Quintero.

"I'm actively involved with the California Student Union," he continued, "and we're pushing forward looking for security beyond "Deferred Action".

After listening to Martinez and Quintero it's clear their immigration rights movement is growing stronger by the day. Driven by more than a decade of advocacy, they are being joined by coalitions from education, labor, social justice, faith based groups, civil and human rights and business interests.

For additional information visit www.fairimmigration.org

Chief" because they feel he could be doing more to advance their cause. There have been nearly 2 million deportations during the Obama administration.

- There are more than 200 immigration detention centers in the U.S and approximately 30,000 detainees being held there.

- A more militant movement is likely to evolve. Protests and hunger strikes are being staged to protest deportation and the treatment of detainees.

Martinez and Quintero turned their presentation to the new realization among all Americans that our entire working class is experiencing the same level of frustration as undocumented students and labor. Our new

global economy and advancing technology is affecting all Americans, not just immigrants.

- Americans are understanding the concerns of the undocumented are no longer separate from the global challenges of the new world economy and the age of technology. The new

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 Democrats
 Founded 1952

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 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

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 Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree
 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event