

# Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by  
Paul Conrad

## June 2014 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

#### 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:** Thom Hartmann narrates *Heist*

#### JULY MEETING

**DATE:** July 20

**TIME:** 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Teresa Savo's House

**TOPIC:** Installation Party

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#### June 15 Meeting: *Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?*

#### PLEASE NOTE THE TIME WILL BE ONE HOUR EARLIER THAN USUAL

On Sunday, June 15 at 1:30 pm at the Peninsula Center Library's community room, we'll be treated to a special showing of the film entitled *Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?*

We've always wanted to bring Thom Hartmann to speak to our club and now we've got him! Well, not exactly in the flesh, but as narrator of this very special documentary.

The following synopsis of the movie appears online. "HEIST: Who Stole the American Dream? exposes the roots of the American economic crisis and the destruction of the American dream. With clear, fact-driven storytelling, *Heist* unflinchingly reveals the hollowing out of the U.S. economy – the result of four decades of deregulation, massive job outsourcing, and tax policies favoring mega-corporations and wealthy elites. Beginning with background on the New Deal, the film explores how FDR's progressive policies were derailed by Ronald Reagan and subsequent presidential administrations, benefitting only the wealthiest investors and CEOs. Through expert testimony, investigative filmmaking and key archival footage, *Heist* unfolds critical historical background, beginning with the dismantling of FDR's New Deal, uncovering the ideological influence of the infamous Powell Memo and the Heritage Foundation's Mandate for Leadership

on government reform, and traces both Republican and Democratic allegiance to big business".

So, please join us for this special showing of *Heist*, enjoy yummy refreshments and engage in conversation with like-minded Democrats.



Sona Kalapura Coffee Manhattan Beach  
Environmental Programs Manager

#### May Meeting Report

By Marta Leipzig

#### Sona Kalapura Coffee Delivered Inspiring Green News from Manhattan Beach

How can we achieve total sustainable energy in the next 10 years? Sona Kalapura Coffee is up to the challenge. In fact she's already leading the charge as Manhattan Beach's Environmental Programs Manager and the rest of South Bay is taking note.

As the opening speaker at our May 18 meeting, Coffee talked about the major

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environmental policies Manhattan Beach is implementing including bans on plastic bags, smoking in public places and polystyrene containers in restaurants.

Coffee is one of the local environmental advocates who played a major role in Earth Hour in Manhattan Beach last month. This year's Earth Hour took on an aggressive new platform dubbed MB2025. The goal of the campaign is to switch the entire – yes, 100% -- of the City's power supply from fossil fuel to renewable energy – all within the next decade.

To accomplish this, Coffee and other MB2025 activists are recommending that Manhattan Beach take the money being paid to Southern California Edison for electricity and redirect it to the city for investment in the development of renewable energy.

"Edison currently has a mandate that 33% of the energy they provide be powered by renewable sources," said Coffee. "But is that enough? There are other options we need to explore."

The discussion then moved to the formation of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs that allow local governments to pool the electricity needs of their residents so that energy – including renewable sources - can be purchased. In California customers are enrolled when their local elected representatives vote to form a CCA program.

Connie Sullivan, President, posed the question "why aren't we doing this in Palos Verdes?"

Coffee's positive energy was infectious.

Her PV Dems audience nodded their heads in agreement as she told us there's absolutely no reason to wait to hop on board. "We can start implementing these changes today."

Power to the people!



*Speaker Daniel Rosove explained J STREET's mission.*

**Daniel Rosove introduced us to J STREET – the dovish American-Israeli lobbying organization**

As Southwest Financial Director of J STREET, Daniel Rosove calls himself a liberal Zionist. The son of a rabbi, he was born in Los Angeles and got heavily involved with The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) while studying at the University of Oregon. Rosove embraced AIPAC's views -- even the most hawkish ones. He believed that it was necessary for the U.S. to ensure Israel's security without question.

Rosove's views were deeply challenged when he went on to study in Israel and

witnessed the terror and devastation of the Second Intifada. At the same time, he was getting to know Arab Israeli students in his dorm and they were becoming friends. "It turned out we shared the same concerns," he said. "We talked frequently about our common wish for peace. My bigotry soon melted away. That's how I came to care so much about this issue and find my way to J Street."

J STREET was founded in 2008 as a peaceful alternative to AIPAC. The brainchild of Jeremy Ben-Ami, a former Clinton policy advisor, the organization quickly grew from a basement startup to a \$7 million venture with 10 offices throughout the U.S. and Israel.

Rosove explained how J STREET is redefining what it means to be pro-Israel in America.

- We're growing communities of pro-Israel, pro-peace advocates in communities all over the U.S.

- We're encouraging a new generation of young pro-Israel leaders on campuses who are committed to Israel's future and to Palestinian independence

- We're lobbying Congress to increase understanding about how the U.S. can wisely use its policies to secure the future of Israel by peacefully ending the Israel-Palestinian conflict

- We're demonstrating that there is strong political and financial support for candidates who believe U.S. leadership is key to achieving a peaceful two-state solution. Our J STREET PAC distributed over \$1.8 million to 71 endorsed candidates in 2012. Of our endorsed candidates 70 won their races.

J STREET fills a void, Rosove believes, allowing different voices to be heard about the fate of Israel which is " a core U.S. political security issue."

Visit [www.jstreet.org](http://www.jstreet.org) for the latest information.

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Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi explains his proposal for Hermosa Beach

**Go Al! Al Muratsuchi stopped by to round up his followers and update us about his environmental bill AB2711**

Re-electing Al Muratsuchi as our assemblymember is a major goal of the PV Dems in our upcoming election.

All of us know about Al's exemplary track record. Representing the South Bay since 2012, he has proven his vision and perseverance time after time. Now he's asking for our support on his behalf.

Addressing his faithful constituents at our May meeting, Al stressed how dedicated he is to maintaining the momentum of California's comeback especially concerning the restoration of school funding and protecting our environment.

Assembly Bill 2711 is at the top of Al's agenda right now. He authored the bill that aims to provide Hermosa Beach with a no-interest \$17.5 million loan making it less worrisome for voters to oppose the proposed oil and gas drilling project that is planned for the city.

The money for the loan would be borrowed from the state tideland oil revenue fund and would be used to pay off E&B Natural Resources Management Corp. of Bakersfield -- the company in charge of the drilling project. The loan payments Hermosa Beach would make would be deposited into the State Coastal Conservancy Trust Fund and used for its Climate Ready Program.

**Time to Renew Membership Dues  
By Connie Sullivan**

Our club's membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. We are now requesting dues payments for the 2014-2015 club-year. The annual dues remain \$25 for an individual and \$40 for a family. Only registered Democrats may join the Palos Verdes Democrats.

Renewals can be made by completing the form attached to every newsletter and sending it with a check to the P.O. Box on the form OR by going to [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org), clicking on the membership tab in the upper right corner and following the instructions.

Club membership entitles one to the monthly newsletter and to vote on resolutions, bylaws, amendments, election of officers, etc.

The board works hard to bring what we hope are interesting speakers and topics to our monthly meetings. In recent years we've had filmmaker Robert Greenwald, LA Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, Gov. Michael Dukakis, Congressman Henry Waxman, State Senator Ted Lieu, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and radio personality Brad Friedman, as well as experts on healthcare, the environment and immigration. Please help us to continue doing so by renewing your membership today.



E&B has plans to install drilling sites "far too close to homes, the beach, and our Greenbelt path," said Muratsuchi. The settlement he is proposing would allow the city to prevent E&B's drilling if the city votes to maintain their ban on oil drilling.

"I want residents to vote their conscience," Muratsuchi said. "I don't want them to fear any type of penalty."

Visit Al's website for more information: [www.alforassembly.com](http://www.alforassembly.com).

**Expenditure Report  
By Connie Sullivan**

In May the club gave \$1000 to the Ted Lieu for Congress campaign and \$1000 to the Al Muratsuchi for Assembly campaign.

**PVPDC Officers for 2013 Contact Info**

President: Connie Sullivan  
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 310-541-5526  
 2nd VP: Carl Muchnick  
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 Membership Chair: Al Shadbourne  
 Newsletter Editor: Marta Leipzig



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 Democrats  
 Founded 1952

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# 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  
 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