

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



January 2020 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

Join us at 2 pm to socialize!

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Jan 19th
MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm
LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE
TOPICS: January and Beyond
SPEAKERS: Sara Deen, CDP delegate; Linda Sun, Supervising DAG and Superior Court candidate, and Congressman Ted Lieu

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, Feb 16th
MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm
LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE
TOPIC: Historic Moments
SPEAKERS: LACDP Chair Mark J. Gonzalez on AB 857 (Public Bank), PVLD Manager Leticia Polizzi on Women's Suffrage Centennial, Linda Herman on Schools and Communities First ballot initiative.

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January General Meeting

January and Beyond is the theme for our January 19th meeting.

Sara Deen, South Coast Interfaith Council President of the Board of Trustees and Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School Member of the Board of Trustees, will be sharing the experience of Muslim Americans in the Trump Era, how the Muslim community is preparing for 2020 and identifying potential opportunities for engagement and inclusion with the Democratic Party. Sara H. Deen currently serves as an elected delegate for AD 66 of the California Democratic Party. Formerly a family dentist and an associate clinical professor at UCLA School of Dentistry, Dr. Deen retired from clinical practice in 2017 to dedicate herself to her family, community service, activism and social justice.

Linda Sun, candidate for Superior Court Judge in the March 3, 2020 election, wants us to know why we should support her candidacy. Working for the CA Department of Justice, first as a Deputy Attorney General and now since 2015 as a Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Linda has prosecuted unscrupulous licensed professionals and handled complex litigation.

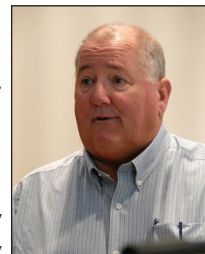
If he's not busy impeaching President Trump and is in town, **Congressman Ted Lieu** is expected to swing by and tell us about his expectations for 2020.

November General Meeting Report

by **Tex Yamada and Ann Nye**

Over-policing and CA Democrats Next Steps was the theme of our November meeting.

Nick Morrow is a speaker with the [Law Enforcement Action Partnership](#) (LEAP), a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement officials working to improve the criminal justice system. He served as a deputy sheriff and detective for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, where he worked custody, patrol, narcotics, and training assignments. Morrow was forced to retire in 1995 due to a service related disability.



Nick Morrow

Morrow grew up on Catalina Island in the City of Avalon, a very small town, and was mentored by deputy sheriffs, firefighters, paramedics and family members, especially his father. "All my heroes stood out front," he says. "They didn't look over their shoulders to see what the right thing to do was. They took responsibility for their communities. They cared about and cared for the people that lived there."

Morrow is involved in drug policy and community based approaches to policing solutions at many levels. He assists municipalities in drafting effective and intelligent solutions to dealing with marijuana policy reforms and regulations. He is also involved in drug education, harm reduction, and overdose prevention in Southern California.

In 2012, He was appointed to the Los Angeles

SAVE THE DATE

**4th Annual
Women's March
LA: Women
Rising**

**Sat Jan 18th, 2020
10am - 4pm**

**DTLA
Pershing Square**



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County Superior Court panel of expert witnesses. Since then, he has reviewed hundreds of criminal cases and testified over 140 times in Superior Courts throughout California.

Morrow's presentation, titled "The Drug War, The Enemy Is Us", covered segments of history dealing with the "War on Drugs" and the creation of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) during the Nixon Years in the 1970s. The anti-drug campaign was an all-out effort by the Establishment to combat and, essentially, "criminalize" drugs, dealers, and users, alike. He provided a quote from John Ehrlichman, White House Domestic Counsel to President Nixon on the rationale of the Drug War, "Look, we understood we couldn't make it illegal to be young or poor or black in the United States, but we could criminalize their common pleasure... It was such a perfect issue that we couldn't resist it."

The War on Drug advocates included Nancy Reagan, "Casual drug users are accomplices to murder " (Feb 1988), LAPD Chief Daryl Gates, "Casual drug users ought to be taken out and shot" (Sept 1990) and Governor of Maine, Paul LePage, "Let's bring back the guillotine for drug dealers..." (Jan 2016).

On 60 Minutes, Dec 2015, Michael Boticelli, Obama's "Drug Czar" Director, initiated a cultural shift when he declared, "The Drug War has failed," "Addiction is a brain disease," "Addicts should be patients not prisoners."

Morrow said The War on Drugs policy led to cheaper and more accessible drugs, a massive criminal economy, countless lives ruined, jails overflowing with non-violent offenders, billions in wasted government resources, and civil liberties eroded. Asking "How are we doing so far?" Morrow replied; the War on Drugs has been, "A failure in every measure." "Prohibition doesn't work and overwhelms our crime labs." "We can't ARREST and JAIL our way out of this problem." "Lack of drug regulation supports criminals," like Al Capone, Pablo Escobar and "El Chapo" Guzman.

Morrow likens the "Just Say No" slogan to "Zero Tolerance", which conveys "Zero Thought", "Zero Compassion", "Zero Progress", and "Zero Problem Solving". The Zero Tolerance mindset suggests an inflexible, all-or-nothing, solution to complex questions with no easy answers.

The War Against Drugs is "really all about the money," said Morrow, emphasizing, "The Drug War is not winnable, but it is very fundable." Asset forfeiture, drug money and vehicle seizures without due process or conviction encourages officers to become mercenaries and contributes to the militarization of our police.

Morrow also emphasized the racial and class inequality in the drug war -- if you're poor and/or a person of color and get caught with drugs, it's "a crime" and you go to jail; if you're rich and white and get caught with drugs, it's "a scandal" and you go to rehab.

So, "What's the right message for our kids?" asks Morrow. "Don't Do Drugs... Don't Do Drugs... DON'T DO DRUGS!" However, it's been proven "honest, science-based education saves lives" when you let kids know about the health, safety and real consequences of taking drugs.

Morrow concluded by saying, "With a little help you can get over a drug addiction. It's much harder to get over a drug conviction."

Check out Alex S. Vitale's book, *The End of Policing*, (LEAP's go to book), for information about The Limits of Police Reform, Criminalizing Homelessness, Gang suppression, Border Policing and Political Policing.

Safer Schools For Our PVP Kids

Roma Mistry and Beth Meyerhoff are committee members on the *Safer Schools for our PVP Kids*, which is a committee advocating support for the school facilities improvement Bond Measure. On Nov 6th, the PVPUSD



Roma Mistry



Beth Meyerhoff

school board voted unanimously to place this \$389 million Bond Measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot. They don't have a name for their measure confirmed yet.

Roma Mistry and Beth Meyerhoff, both attorneys and parents of children in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD), spoke about the need to support this ballot measure to subsidize the PVPUSD school facilities repair, modernization and total improvement costs.

Mistry and Meyerhoff, both involved with local PTA and Peninsula Education Foundation work, know families move to the Palos Verdes Peninsula for the schools, which rank high on multiple national assessments. However, the schools were built during the 1955-1964 boom and it's time to reinvest in our 50-60 year old infrastructure. The PVPUSD consists of 18 schools and each school has been appraised to need modernization and repair work.

PVPUSD's state funding is less than neighboring South Bay schools, but they have still managed to reduce expenses by almost \$3M since 2018 by cutting back on administrative overhead, teaching assignments and salary savings from promoting an early retirement incentive plan.

Mistry and Meyerhoff said a vote for this bond measure is a fiscally responsible decision since the longer we wait, the more expensive facility improvements become. The facilities improvement measure will cost \$389,385,000, which amounts to a 3.8 cents per \$100 assessed value (\$21,042,000 annually). *Safer Schools for Our PVP Kids* advocates our priority is the safety and security of our kids, keeping our high profile schools, and bond revenue to stay locally controlled by a citizens oversight committee.

Both Mistry and Meyerhoff realize they face an uphill battle and asked the PV Democrats Club for its endorsement of the proposed School Bond Measure. The club unanimously voted to endorse the *Safer Schools for Our PVP Kids* bond measure and approved the PV Dems board making an appropriate donation.

Contact pvbondcampaign2020@gmail.com to donate and/or volunteer for this campaign.

Grassroots Democrats HQ

Tamara Levenson, Grassroots Democrats HQ Executive Director, spoke of their mission

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to defend the Democrats' win in Congress, flip the Senate and take back the White House in 2020. Grassroots Democrats HQ began in 2018 to win a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and focused on flipping seven Congressional districts in CA. Now their focus is on defending the California Seven, and working to take back the White House and the Senate in 2020.



Tamara Levenson is involved with numerous volunteer-driven phone banking, canvassing, text banking, voter registration, and postcard & letter writing campaigns.

Levenson is also the Director of Campaigns for **Sister District**, composed of mostly volunteer workers engaged in canvassing, postcard writing, text banking, and fundraising for Democratic candidates running for elected office across the country.

Sister District is the political branch of the **Women's March Foundation** which originally organized for the miraculous one-day march the day after Trump's inauguration that has evolved into a national movement to inspire women to run for office and realize their power. In 2020, they are organizing the **4th Annual Women's March on January 18th** across the country. See the announcement for the Los Angeles Women's March on page 1.

Levenson told us Grassroots Democrats HQ is about "connecting the grassroots network with the Democratic Party process to win elections nationwide." She cited "remote phone bank systems" and "remote post carding systems" as important components of a winning formula.

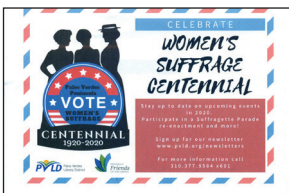
In the 2018 midterm election, Levenson was involved in the Blue Wave success where California voters flipped seven House of Representative seats. As Co-Manager and Field Director for the Westside Democrats HQ, her group traveled in 19 buses for eight congressional races, completing 600 canvassing shifts to knock on voter doors.

Levenson listed several activities as high priority on the Grassroots Democrats HQ 2019 agenda, with one of them being recruitment of Affiliate Organizations and asked for Palos Verdes Democrats to affiliate. Rascha Hall, PV Dems

President, asked for a vote and Palos Verdes Democrats voted to affiliate with Grassroots Democrats HQ. They just opened a new office in Westwood and you can find information on where to volunteer on their website (and also see our logo) at: grassrootsdems.org

Announcements

Rascha Hall, PV Dems President, and Kathy Bradford, PV Dems 1st VP, attended and reported about the Peninsula Library's planning meeting for the **Women's Suffrage Centennial Parade** on March 14th. PV Dems will be one of the supporters and participants of the historic parade. A representative from the Library will speak at our February meeting.



Andrew DeBlock, former senior field representative for Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, asked for support and funds to help his run for Torrance City Council in District 6. Contact Andrew at his website andrewfortorrance.com.

John Brisson, representative from the local democratic volunteer organization "**Los Angeles for Pete**," was introduced from the audience. You can visit their website, www.LosAngelesforPete.com.

CADEM Convention Highlights

By Tony Hale

This was a unique year with two Democratic conventions in the same year. Normally, every even numbered year is a platform convention and resolutions are not heard. However, it was ruled that no resolutions would be heard in committee or on the floor for the convention held in Nov. All pending and new resolutions will go the Executive Board meeting in March.

The Resolutions Committee voted to:

Support Prop 13, Californians for Safe Schools & Healthy Learning; invests \$15 billion to upgrade school facilities.

Support Bail Reform Proposition to end

money bail and improve public safety, reduce pretrial incarceration and includes strong safeguards against discrimination. And **oppose** the referendum to reverse the bail bond reform law.



President's Report

By Rascha Hall

Happy New Year. It's 2020 - the year of the Democrats! But that won't happen without everyone working to make it happen. Have you decided on a favorite candidate yet? We continue to have potential candidates leaving the campaign--Kamala Harris and Steve Bullock--but surprise, surprise, some are still throwing their hats into the ring--Mike Bloomberg and Deval Patrick. No matter who becomes our candidate, we should pledge to work hard for him or her; we cannot let Mr. Trump win a second term. The opportunities to help are numerous. Phone bank, both for candidates in California and in swing districts around the country, e.g. Kentucky and Arizona, walk precincts, donate time and money.

November saw some amazing gains. A Democrat win in the Kentucky Governor's race, despite Mr. Trump's desperate plea to not let it happen. Remember him at a rally in Kentucky the night before the election--"Don't do this to me?" We have to hope that Kentucky will continue the swing to blue and rid us of Mitch McConnell. Another win in Louisiana. And Virginia, with the help of some of our members working with Past President Lynn Bommer and Sister City, is now blue. Two Novembers in a row; let's make it three!

The good news didn't stop. I was riveted to the television watching the testimonies during the impeachment inquiry. In the midst of it all, Duncan Hunter from San Diego joined Chris Collins from New York state (the two congressional representatives who, despite being indicted of crimes, were reelected to congress in 2018) and reversed his plea from not guilty to guilty. Duncan Hunter's wife, who was indicted along with her husband, pleaded guilty in June. Both men have resigned. We now have an opportunity to flip two more Republican seats in Congress.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our January 19th meeting.



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2019-2020

- President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334
- President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
- 1st Vice President: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812
- 2nd Vice President: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
- Recording Secretary: Asha Shahed 310-709-0264
- Corresponding Secretary: Arline Korb 310-544-7203
- Treasurer: Al Shadbourne 310-326-4953
- Membership: Irene Silver 310-541-2650
- Publicity: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501
- Parliamentarian: Carol Moeller 310-541-5526
- Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694
- Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
- Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526
- Hospitality: Nancie Silver 310-941-4501
- Web Master: Reggie Jue 310-433-8189
- 66th ADDC Rep: Connie Sullivan 310-567-2210

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
- Receive a monthly newsletter
- Vote on club issues, unless registered as NPP (No Party Preference), and have the opportunity to be elected to the board

Please send your membership form and check 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 registered No Party Preference
* Fill in both names if applying as a family - two memberships I am a registered Democrat
 I am registered No Party Preference

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 **Check payable to: Palos Verdes Democrats**
Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

Please contact us to help in the following areas:

- Hospitality Newsletter Membership Publicity Correspondence
- Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Annual Picnic Committee