

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



May 2019 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

Social time: 2pm

MAY MEETING

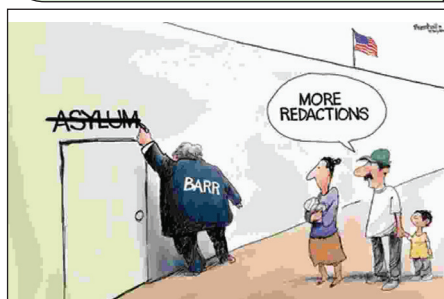
DATE: Sunday, May 26th (NOTE the day is the 4th Sunday vs our usual 3rd Sunday)
MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm
LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE
TOPICS: Candidate for CA Dem Chair, PV Dems Board Election and Bylaw Change
SPEAKER: Kimberly Ellis

JUNE MEETING

DATE: Sunday, June 23rd (NOTE this is the 4th Sunday to avoid conflict with Father's Day)
MEETING TIME: 2:30-4:30pm
LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE
TOPIC: TBD
SPEAKER: TBD

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May General Meeting

Bay Area progressive activist Kimberly Ellis is running to be the Chair of the California Democratic Party.

Kimberly Ellis, Executive Director of Emerge California since 2010, became well known in 2017 when she narrowly lost the chairmanship to then LA Democratic Party Chairman Eric Bauman. Ellis formerly served on the California Democratic Party Finance Committee and also on the California Democratic Party's African American Caucus as Recording Secretary.

Delegates and elected officials will select our next Democratic Party Chair at the state party's convention in San Francisco, May 31-June 2.

April Meeting Report by Tex Yamada and Ann Nye

RPV City Council Member Eric Alegria Discusses Local Issues

Eric Alegria, successfully ran for Rancho Palos Verdes City Council in 2017 for a 3 year term. He serves on the Regional Law Committee (which partners with the police) and is a Delegate to the Council of Governments, where issues of regional broadband for all the cities is discussed.

As a first term city council member, serving in his second year, Alegria's agenda emphasizes neighborhood safety, emergency preparedness, and emissions reduction. He cites the ranking of Rancho Palos Verdes as number seven among California's safest cities as an example of one of the city's noteworthy achievements.

Alegria also supports the city's continuing efforts to develop energy efficiency awareness

and programs that help to promote a clean, healthy environment. He is most proud of the buy-in by all the council members for the Emissions Reduction Action Plan (ERAP) which included the push for electric vehicles and installation of charging stations in City-owned lots; an example of realizing energy efficiency while maintaining environmental standards. The emissions goals as well as all the RPV 2019 goals are listed on their [website](#).



Eric Alegria, RPV Council Member

Alegria believes RPV residents should be able to enjoy the park system and trail network in a natural, recreational venue and opposes over development.

Alegria responded to questions covering a wide range of topics, including California Senate Bill 50 (additional housing near public transportation may not be appropriate in RPV), the Portuguese Bend Landslide (hoping for some solutions to reduce the landside rate), Charter City status (here's the [staff report](#)), and school safety (investigating the need for unarmed School Resource Officers, where the city would share in the cost to pay for them).

Alegria, the lone Democrat on the council, wants to make sure residents are aware that in the November 2019 election, 2 and maybe 3 seats for council members are up for election.

LA County is Modernizing the Voting Experience by 2020

Jeff Klein, Manager of Civic Engagement,

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Community Relations & Legislation, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, discussed the Los Angeles County new voting system, which will be implemented for the Primary Election on March 2020 (it was moved up 3 months).



Jeff Klein

Klein pointed out that those of us who vote by mail, already saw the new, vote by mail ballot in the last election; which replaced the scantron form with a more intuitive ballot and provided FREE postage. The entire project is called Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP), consisting of the following seven modules:

1. Modern Tally System
2. Interactive Sample Ballot
3. Ballot Marking Device
4. Voting Period
5. Vote Centers
6. Electronic Pollbooks
7. New Vote by Mail Experience

Klein covered each of the modules and fielded questions from the audience. Many of the questions were of the specific, "what if" variety and he encouraged folks to visit the VSAP website at <http://vsap.lavote.net/>. For Voting Period and Vote Centers, Klein explained the major changes and was most excited about the new voting period which extended the time to vote to 11 days. Starting ten days before election day, voters have the freedom and flexibility to visit any of the approximately 250 vote centers to cast their ballot. Beginning three days before the election and on Election Day itself, the number of vote centers will increase to about 1,000.

For Vote by Mail (VBM), previously known as voting by absentee ballot, voters will use pen

and ink to mark the VBM ballot. Voters can mail the VBM ballot or take the ballot to any drop-off location throughout Los Angeles County.

The Interactive Sample Ballot (ISB) allows a voter to view their sample ballot and pre-mark their choices on their personal device (phone, tablet, computer) and create a Poll Pass before going to their vote center. At the vote center, a voter can scan their Poll Pass to the voting center's Ballot Marking Device and create a paper ballot to verify and then turn in.

Second round grassroots Community meetings are now being held at locations in Los Angeles County April through June 2019. Each community meeting includes a presentation, take-home materials, and a Q&A period. Admission is free. The next Vote Center Placement Project (VCP) presentation is May 16 at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center at 7 pm. To view a schedule of all the Second Round Community Meetings, go to <http://vsap.lavote.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/VCP-Second-Round-Grassroots-Community-Meetings-All-Confirmed-Updated-....pdf>.

With the number of Vote Centers staying open for a longer duration, Klein said they'll be needing more staff to work at the centers. The VCP is planning a mock election Sept 28 and 29 (it's not political, just a way to practice voting - maybe fun to volunteer for) and they plan to Demo centers opening in October.

Insights on the Mueller Report

Ben Tarzynski, LA County Deputy District Attorney and 66th ADEM elected delegate, provided his views and insights on the Robert Mueller Report and Investigation. The Mueller Report was originally handed over to Attorney General William Barr by Mueller on March 22.

The Department of Justice released to the public a redacted version of the report on April 18.



Ben Tarzynski

Tarzynski believes Mueller did not pursue indictment charges for conspiracy (collusion) against President Trump because he (Mueller) didn't have enough of a case to win in court. BUT, he believed the obstruction of justice was real. All the instances sighted where Trump's staff people didn't follow his orders, is an "attempted" obstruction of justice. Our system didn't expect a leader like Trump and needs to be changed "before it snaps."

Impeachment hearings are important and congress needs to follow through with the process. Tarzynski cited the often discussed and likely outcome of passage of impeachment in the House of Representatives and ultimate defeat in the Republican-controlled Senate. He said, "the constitutional crisis ultimately goes to the Supreme Court and we all know who controls the Supreme Court."

Later in the discussion, Tarzynski had the help from his kids while providing us his thoughts about Presidential pardons and New York State legal actions against President Trump and/or his businesses.



President's Report

by Rascha Hall

In my last President's Report, I began by acknowledging that two days before the previous meeting, we learned of a horrific shooting death of 50 members of the Muslim community in New Zealand. This month, on the very day of our meeting, at least 3 members arrived with the news of a shooting at the Chabad Synagogue in Poway, California. At the time we didn't know the full details. Now we know that one woman was killed and three were injured. While we think that 1 person killed seems minor compared to 50, or even 11 killed exactly six months before at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, or 26 at a church in Texas, or 9 at a black church in South Carolina, to that woman's family, one was way too many. Churches, Mosques, Synagogues in the U.S., New Zealand,

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Sri Lanka, and other places around the world, all have been targets.

I don't know how we stop the violence and better manage the hatred, but I do believe that stricter gun laws (and a change in US President) would be good places to start. New Zealand's first steps are reasonable; I think we should require our leaders to do the same. Many voters will expect Democratic candidates to promise to put improved gun control on their agendas. Let's hold them to it.

The Club elections will be held at the next meeting. Check out the slate from which we will vote elsewhere in this newsletter. For the first time since I have been a member (in the early 1990s), we have two offices that are being challenged. We will have a secret ballot to determine the outcome of those races.

PLEASE NOTE the May meeting date has been changed from the 3rd Sunday to the 4th Sunday, May 26th.

We also will vote on a Club By-Laws change - see Reggie's report.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the important May 26th meeting.

PV Democrats Board Election by Carol Moeller

At our May 26th meeting, we will vote to elect our Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 year, which officially begins in July.

Board Position	2018-19 Board Member	2019-20 Slate
President	Rascha Hall	Rascha Hall Joseph Lopez
1st Vice President	Randall K Linenberg	Kathy Bradford
2nd Vice President	Joseph Lopez	Sterlina Cerritos Ann Nye
Recording Secretary	Kathy Bradford	Asha Shahed
Corresponding Secretary	Arline Korb	Arline Korb
Treasurer	Al Shadbourne	Al Shadbourne
Parliamentarian		Carol Moeller
Membership	Irene Silver	Irene Silver
Publicity	Nancie Silver	Nancie Silver
Newsletter Editor	Tex Yamada Asha Shahed	Tex Yamada
Web Master	Reggie Jue	Reggie Jue
Hospitality	Maria Fusteri	

With our membership exceeding 200, it is not surprising our nominating committee found more people interested in running than ever before! For the two offices with more than one candidate in the running, per our bylaws, we will conduct a secret ballot. The remainder of the ballot will be conducted by a show of hands, as has been our practice in the past. Also per our

bylaws, any registered Democrat who has been a member of our club at least since last February is eligible to vote.

Notice of Proposed Changes to the Palos Verdes Democrats By-Laws by Reggie Jue

In order to bring our by-laws into compliance with LACDP and CDP requirements, the Palos Verdes Democrats Board of Directors is proposing to make the following two changes:

Is: 11.1 The Club shall submit a roster of Members in Good Standing as of the July 1 CDP deadline.

Change to: 11.1 The Club shall submit a roster of Members in Good Standing per the CDP deadline specified in the Manual of Operation.

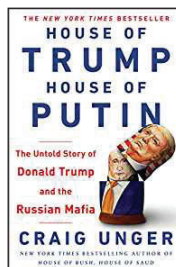
Is: [2.1] b. Persons who are registered as NPP (No Party Preference) are also eligible to become members, with the exception they may not participate in club voting.

Change to: [2.1] b. Persons who are registered as NPP (No Party Preference) are also eligible to become members, with the following exceptions: NPP members

- 1-may not participate in club voting;
- 2-may not represent the club in pre-endorsement caucuses;
- 3-may not be considered as part of the membership numbers reported to CADEM.

We will vote on these bylaw changes at the May meeting.

Book Review *House of Trump House of Putin* by Craig Unger Reviewed by Carol Moeller



In the eye-opening book *House of Trump, House of Putin: The Untold Story of Donald Trump and the Russian Mafia*, Craig Unger pretty much lays out Russia's influence on Trump, and this was even before the Mueller report was released. He documents Trump's association with Putin that goes back as far as 1987! More than 20 years ago, an essentially bankrupt Trump was bailed out by

Russian operatives, and Trump has been paying Russian mobsters back by allowing tarnished money secreted out of the collapsed Soviet Union to be laundered through his real estate holdings. "It's hard to imagine Donald Trump had no knowledge whatsoever about what was going on," Unger writes, as hundreds of millions in Russian investment flowed into Trump's coffers while Trump showed an "eagerness to turn a blind eye to practices that allowed the Russian mob to launder money." Some mobsters bought as many as 6 apartments in Trump Tower, and even ran an illegal gambling operation out of Trump's premier building. Unger provides numerous examples of Trump allowing himself to become compromised by Russia, years before he seriously considered the US Presidency. Essentially the Russian mob and then the biggest Russian mobster, Putin himself, used Trump for illicit purposes. In fact, Unger describes 59 operatives who have ties to Trump-Russia interactions.

Harvard-educated Craig Unger served as deputy editor of the New York Observer and was editor-in-chief of Boston Magazine, and was previously best known for his New York Times bestselling *House of Bush, House of Saud*. His current release, *House of Trump House of Putin*, tied many loose ends together, fleshed out many names found in Mueller's report, and gave me a much better understanding of the report itself.

Demand for Transparency March by Carol Moeller

In response to Attorney General Barr's patently biased and pitifully scant overview of the Mueller report (this was prior to the release of the redacted version), activists across the country participated in a Demand for Transparency March on April 4th. My guess is between 50 and 75 people displayed signs on the corner of Artesia and Hawthorne, and these were met with honks of support and thumbs up by passersby.





Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2018-2019

- President: Rascha Hall 310-377-7334
- President Emeritus: Lynn Bommer 310-374-1188
- 1st Vice President: Randall Klinenberg 310-977-1607
- 2nd Vice President: Joseph Lopez 310-935-9801
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Bradford 310-265-9812
- 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
- Newsletter Editor: Tex Yamada 310-329-3694
Asha Shahed 310-709-0264
- Newsletter Designer: Ann Nye 310-373-6805
- Newsletter Mailings: Ron Moeller 310-541-5526
- Hospitality: Maria Frusteri 310-270-1160
- 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)

**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
 I am registered No Party Preference
 Name* _____ I am a registered Democrat
 I am registered No Party Preference
 * 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 **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 Phone Tree