

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

August 2018 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

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Sunday, August 19th

MEETING TIME: 4:00 - 7:00pm

LOCATION: Peninsula Center Library
Community Room; 701 Silver Spur Rd, RHE

TOPIC: Review of 2017-18 Supreme Court
Decisions

SPEAKERS: Superior Court Judge Tom
Long

SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE: Sunday, September 16th

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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Please renew your 2018-1019 membership dues.

Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th and we depend primarily on dues to pay for vital donations to Democratic candidates, room and equipment rentals as well as always-appreciated refreshments! We also pay fees to the FEC and the LA County Democratic Party.

You can use the renewal form in the newsletter or find it on our website or even complete the process entirely online at <http://pvpdemocrats.org/membership/>

This is the year we hope to help Democrats gear up to take back our Congress, and we all know we certainly have our work cut out for us.

August General Meeting

Our August 19th meeting will examine the past year's Supreme Court decisions. PV Dems member and newly elected Superior Court Judge Tom Long will step us through the 2018 Supreme Court Review video panel discussion of the decisions, and will provide insight as to how these rulings will affect us.

The Supreme Court Review is moderated by **Rick Hasen**, Chancellor's Professor, UCI Law. The panel and what they'll be speaking about includes:

Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, Berkeley Law – overall opinion of this year's decisions.

Hon. Goodwin Liu, Associate Justice, California Supreme Court – **Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado** 7-2 decision, the Court ruled on narrow grounds that a previous decision by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission did not employ religious neutrality, violating Masterpiece owner Jack Phillips' rights to free exercise, and reversed the Commission's decision. The Court did not rule on the broader intersection of anti-discrimination laws, free exercise of religion, and freedom of speech, due to the complications of the Commission's lack of religious neutrality.

Erin E. Murphy, Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP – **Gill v. Whitford** 9-0 decision, SCOTUS vacated and 7-2 remanded a U.S. district court decision that had struck down a redistricting plan of the Wisconsin state legislature as an unconstitutional political, or partisan, gerrymander.

Alexandra Natapoff, Professor, UCI Law –

Carpenter v. US 5-4 decision stating the government violates the Fourth Amendment by accessing historical records containing the physical locations of cellphones without a search warrant.

Nina Totenberg, NPR Legal Affairs Correspondent – **Trump v. Hawaii (aka Muslim travel ban case)** 5-4 decision - the court found that Trump's travel restriction fell "squarely" within the president's authority. The court rejected claims that the ban was motivated by religious hostility.

Leah Litman, Assistant Professor, UCI Law - (Kennedy's legacy) Justices tempered their opinions in order to get Kennedy's vote, although Kennedy said "I don't swing; the cases do."

July Picnic Review

by **Carol Moeller**

On a beautiful, warm day, PV Democrats' outgoing president, **Lynn Bommer** welcomed the more than 200+ guests to our annual picnic and board installation. Below is a short synopsis of what our speakers shared with us.



Lynn Bommer

Indivisible South Bay's founder, Umesh Ketkar

spoke about our common goals in making our voices heard above the media's right-wing Trump barrage. One way this group accomplishes voicing a progressive presence is by meeting with political leaders and connecting with political groups.



Umesh Ketkar

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PV Democrats welcomed the large number of Indivisible members present at our picnic.

La County Assessor Jeffrey Prang drew laughter when he noted that the Assessor is not the Tax Collector. He intoned "that official's title is Tax Collector"!



Jeffrey Prang

Palos Verdes Library Districts' board officers Kay Jue and Debbie Stegura emphasized what a jewel the PV Library District is and reminded us of the many ways that our library system is far more than simply places to check out books.



Kay Jue



Debbie Stegura

Torrance City Councilman Tim Goodrich and Torrance Mayor Pat Furey noted that Democrats just lost a slot on the Torrance City Council to a Republican, even though that city, which is by far the largest in the 66th Assembly



Tim Goodrich



Pat Furey

District, has more voters registered as Democrats than Republicans. They emphasized how much harder it will make accomplishing any progressive actions with



The beautiful grounds at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church for the PV Democrats Picnic and Installation Party

this new 5:3 Republican majority.

PVE City Council member Jennifer King

spoke about the successful passage of the city's parcel tax after it's 2nd time on the ballot and more innovative ways in getting out the vote. Jennifer also noted on the November ballot an initiative that targets law SB 1, which was approved in April 2017 by the Democratic-controlled Legislature and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. By imposing a tax on gasoline, this law is expected to raise \$5.4 billion annually for road and bridge repairs and improvements to mass transit. Connie Sullivan, our 66th ADDC rep, asked that we should only refer to this ballot initiative as the "infrastructure repeal". Since electric cars still use roads, part of SB1 requires electric car owners to pay a \$100 annual fee starting in 2020.



Jennifer King

A member of Rolling Hills Estates City Council, the Air Resources Board and South Coast AQMD, Judy Mitchell announced that her city is the first to participate in community-



Judy Mitchell

choice aggregation, where consumers will have the choice to receive energy through renewable sources. Members will have the option of staying with Edison's current rate of clean-energy power sources, which is less than a third of its total supply, or they can increase the amount of renewable sources to 50 or 100 percent of the energy they consume. In addition to giving people more choice, the program is expected to reduce rates because it

increases competition and is publicly run. No matter which choice they make, RHE residents will still receive their power through Edison's grid and will receive their bills from Edison.

Ms. Mitchell also mentioned the water pipeline currently being installed to augment the aging single line now providing all of the water on the hill. She urged our patience with traffic delays in light of the importance of this vital pipeline.

West Basin Municipal and Metropolitan Water Districts board member Harold Williams



Harold Williams

thanked the PV Democrats for aiding in his election when he last ran for office on the West Basin's board. He is currently up for reelection in November and joked that we should all go to the end of our ballots and vote for him for West Basin first, and then continue to mark the top of our ballots.

Al Muratsuchi's representative Andrew DeBlock spoke about the importance of Al's



Andrew DeBlock

reelection campaign this November. Even though Al received the most votes (49% vs 45%) against his main contender, former Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto, he needs everyone's support to win in November.

Lynn Bommer announced an **Al Muratsuchi fundraiser hosted by Teresa Savo and sponsored by the Palos Verdes Democrats:**

Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018
Time: 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM (PDT)
Place: Home of Teresa Savo, 30226 Avenida de Calma, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Register at this [eventbrite link](#)

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As our representative on the 66th Assembly District Democratic Council,

Connie Sullivan announced that the ADDC is proud to be hosting UCI Law Professor, Rick Hasen, the nation's top specialist in election law on Wednesday, July 18, at 7 pm at Zamperini Field. She reminded me that Mr. Hasen is the moderator of the Supreme Court Review that Judge Tom Long will be using in his presentation at our PV Democrats' meeting next month.



Connie Sullivan

Tony Cho (office 60), Patti Hunter (Office 16), Javier Perez (Office 113) and Veronica Saucedo (Office 4) are running for the aforementioned respective Superior Court judicial offices.

They all have been endorsed by the LA County Democratic Party and all have stellar qualifications.



Tony Cho



Patti Hunter

They emphasized the importance of judicial elections and asked that we share their names with friends who might not be familiar with these positions. These are very busy attorneys who all took the time to attend our picnic and we appreciate their coming to educate us.



Javier Perez



Veronica Saucedo

Congressman Ted Lieu had a lot to say about this current administration, and did mention confusing poll numbers. We see a greater percentage of the population voicing unhappiness with Trump, yet the percentage of Republicans who approve of Trump does not seem to be dropping (in some instances, his approval ratings among Republicans are actually rising). Lieu attributes this apparent discrepancy to the greater number of Republicans actually dropping out of their party. Thus although the actual number of Republicans as a whole is dropping, what is left of that party is a smaller number but higher party percentage of hard-core right wingers.



Ted Lieu

This also explains why it is increasingly harder for moderate Republicans to remain in the party.... reasonable Republicans are nearly gone and it is only the far right who are left to voice their skewed opinions.

Mr. Lieu has high enough poll numbers that he isn't worried about his re-election chances. Instead of working on his behalf, he urges all of us to help Democrats in competitive sister districts.



From left: Ann Nye, Nanci Silver, Irene Silver, Kathy Bradford, Reggie Jue, Arline Korb, Lynn Bommer, Rascha Hall, Randall Klineberg, Joseph Lopez and Ted Lieu

One moment of spontaneous laughter happened when Congressman Lieu was about to induct President Rascha Hall and the PV Democrats' new board. He quipped "Repeat after me: I pledge not to use taxpayer money to fly first class...." before changing to a more traditional party pledge. Many members applaud Congressman Lieu for playing an audiotope of crying children who had been separated from their undocumented parents. This was broadcast on the floor of Congress, and in the background could be heard the acting speaker repeatedly saying "The gentleman will please suspend." So, in support of this and his many other courageous actions, the PV Democrats presented Congressman Lieu with a pair of red, white and blue suspenders, fashionably emblazoned with the Democratic Party donkey icon!

Book Review: Make Trouble: Standing Up, Speaking Out and Finding the Courage to Lead

By Cecile Richards
Reviewed by Carol Moeller



This is good read and an inspirational book that could be used as a primer for activists. It should be required reading for anyone

needing more impetus to go the long haul into November. I'd mistakenly thought Cecile Richards got her position as CEO of Planned Parenthood primarily due to connections to her mother, Ann Richards, who had been the Governor of Texas. Ann's no-nonsense, "tell it like it is" progressive approach to governance (she famously compared the role of women to men using the quote "Ginger Rogers did everything the great Fred Astaire did but backwards and in high heels") undoubtedly played a large part in Cecile's desire to right the wrongs of the world. However, Cecile had already made a career as a union organizer before Ann even ran, and in fact, Cecile quit that job to use her organizational skills arguably to push Ann over the gubernatorial finish line in a squeaker of a race. This book chronicles Cecile in grade school refusing to recite the Lord's Prayer, which (illegally) followed the Pledge of Allegiance in most schools in Texas. Her mother's "way to go" support spurred Cecile to question other abuses along the way. As a student at Brown University, Richards worked to unionize the university janitors and marched against the nearby Seabrook nuclear power plant. "I may have majored in history but I minored in agitating." When she met her future husband, Kirk Adams, also a union organizer, she spotted a kindred soul. She is profuse in giving thanks to Kirk, who, in sharing her idealism, has lived something of a vagabond life. They have three children (her second pregnancy resulted in twins), and Richards even confided that they aborted a third pregnancy (and this was way before her association with Planned Parenthood). She highly recommends exposing children to organizing activities early. They pick up new skills, and "There is nothing like sorting a mailing list to nail the ABCs." In addition to union organizing, Richards has had a varied career that includes starting the progressive organization America Votes and working for Nancy Pelosi (who she credits with the passage of the Affordable Care Act in a form that included insurance coverage for abortions). When Planned Parenthood contacted her, she

was terrified, but she asks, "What is it about us women" that causes us to hold ourselves back? On the contrary, she advises "never ever hold yourself back from accepting a big job or a big chance". Richards recently left Planned Parenthood after 12 years, ostensibly to allow a fresh face to run the organization. Although she has not revealed any further career choices, it is my hope that this ethical and talented women will run for office.



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 310-375-4912
- Newsletter Editor:
- 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

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

Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

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