

Palos Verdes Democrats

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

July 2017 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

JULY MEETING

DATE: Sunday, July 16th

MEETING TIME: 2:30 - 4:30pm

LOCATION: St. Luke's Presbyterian Church (in the Garden); 26825 Rolling Hills Rd, RHE, CA 90274

TOPIC: Installation Party - this year we are also inviting non-members; so bring your friends

SPEAKERS: Many elected officials (see July General Meeting article)

AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Sunday, August 20th

MEETING TIME: 2:30-4:30pm

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

TOPIC: Explanation of Erwin Chemerinsky's 2017 Supreme Court Review

SPEAKER: Superior Court Judge Tom Long

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July 16th Party

@ St Luke's Presbyterian Church

26825 Rolling Hills Rd., RHE, CA
(between Crenshaw and PV Dr. N)

Parking:

The lot closest to PV Dr. N is only for drop off and handicapped parking. All others park in the lot closer to Crenshaw and follow the walkway signs to the event.

July General Meeting

On Sunday, July 16th, the Palos Verdes Democrats will meet at 2:30 pm in the St Luke's Presbyterian Church's garden in Rolling Hills Estates for our Annual Installation of Officers Party.

In addition to the speeches and ceremonies, we will be entertained by the **Pennyroyal Players**, a group of five talented women who use folk music to celebrate dramatic and musical moments in the American Experience.



As usual, we will have many of our elected officials. With all the activities in Sacramento and Washington, it is sometimes difficult to plan calendars, but so far, we have confirmations from Congressman **Ted Lieu**, Congresswoman **Nanette Barragan**, Assemblymember **Al Muratsuchi**, and CA State Treasurer **John Chiang**, who is a candidate for governor.

We also want you to meet democrats **Katie Hill** and **Jess Phoenix**, who are challenging Republican Steve Knight in the 25th congressional district (Simi Valley, Lancaster, Santa Clarita, Palmdale). We will also hear from **Harold Williams**, **Kay Cooperman Jue**, and **Ben Kelly** (candidate for Rancho Palos Verdes City Council).

Lisa's Catering will provide an All American picnic menu. Our members will provide potluck desserts and drinks. Members are welcome to bring friends! Please RSVP at our website, <http://pvpdemocrats.org/event/2017-annual-membership-meeting/>, or call us at (310) 374-1188 so that we know how many to expect.

June Meeting Report by Carol Moeller

Maureen Cruise, RN, director of Healthcare for All, Los Angeles Chapter, spoke to us about the Healthy California Campaign to enact [SB 562](#). She began by illustrating problems with the current system we have where healthcare is administered by insurance companies. Over 30% of our healthcare dollars go to the administration of the insurance-based system, as opposed to just 3% going to administration under the Medicare system. Having the same administrative system as Medicare, therefore should result in a savings that would help cover most of those not covered by our current system.



Maureen Cruise, RN
Director of Healthcare for All

SB 562 would cover all California residents, including the undocumented. The ambitious plan is to cover anything you'd normally think of as associated with doctors and hospitals as well as mental health services, dental services, vision, medical equipment purchases, nursing home and long-term care! The money that employers currently use to fund insurance plans would go instead into a state "trust fund" that would help fund this plan. Providers such as Kaiser could keep their current system but would get a fixed amount of \$ per person from the state.

The estimates for the cost of this system vary from \$330 billion (this number arises from a detailed analysis) to \$400 billion (this number comes from an admitted "guestimate"). The

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current system of coverage for Californians costs \$370 billion, but of course not everyone is covered. So, depending on which estimate one uses, covering everyone in California actually could result in a cost savings. However, if more money is needed, a sales tax has been proposed, and here is where most criticisms arise. One of the problems with a new tax is that 40% of any "changes in per capita general fund revenues" is required to go to our schools as a result of the 1988 [Prop. 98](#), so a very large amount of money would have to be raised. This is likely the main reason why Assembly Speaker Rendon "shelved" the bill.

Proponents note that all other countries which have single-payer have costs dramatically lower than ours with much better patient health results. Canada has a population slightly smaller than the State of California, has government handling of healthcare administration, has much lower costs yet much better results. Our own State Senator and SB 362 co-sponsor, Ben Allen said the only way this bill (or something like it) can pass is if we push and push our legislators. So go to www.HealthyCA.org to see what YOU can do to get us universal healthcare.

Health Care 2017
by Carl Muchnick, M.D., FAAP

As the effort to develop a plan for health care for the nation continues, it should be recognized that the current plan Affordable Care Act (ACA; aka Obamacare) is flawed. However, it is an improvement over the previous system, and the alternative American Health Care Act (AHCA) is worse than both.

There is no way to fix either of these plans. They are far too complicated and costly. A great



deal of money is spent on administration at the expense of direct patient care. An inordinate amount of money goes to the insurance companies, and in turn to their shareholders. In addition, the compensation to the CEOs is in the stratosphere! There is only one way to address this problem: single payer.

Health care is unique. It is a basic human need, and cannot be compared to other commodities such as clothes, automobiles or electronics and is not analogous to choosing a restaurant or a movie. It has nothing to do with state lines. Where one lives does not determine the need for care.

The truth is that a single payer system eliminates the problems of pre-ACA, ACA, and AHCA. The main focus is on the patients and their care. Everyone is covered and the costs are controlled by careful budgeting. Expert panels review the coverage, costs, and compensation issues. Funds are raised from a progressive health care tax, which for the vast majority of people would be less than they pay to access the dysfunctional system currently in effect.

Medicare For All (MFA) exemplifies this approach. Expanding Medicare to cover the whole population would solve the problems, while potentially ending the political divide. Adopting MFA prevents people from not

getting the care they need due to the inability to pay, whether due to high premiums and/or high deductibles. It also prevents medical bankruptcies and allows people the freedom to spend their money as they wish, thereby boosting the economy as a whole. It allows companies, large and small alike, to attend to their products and services, pay their employees fairly, and not worry about having to spend large sums of money on health care insurance for their employees. With MFA there is no lifetime cap. Preventative care is stressed as are services for chronic conditions.

In summary, single payer health care should be seen as a bi-partisan issue that provides for universal health care insurance regardless of income. The money released into the system can also be used to provide other important services such as vision care, hearing care, and long term care. This can be done now. It would allow us to move forward as a nation and devote our time and resources to other concerns.

Never Forget Manzanar (My visit to an American concentration camp)
by Christine Mei

On April 29 this year, my daughter Elsa and I participated in the 48th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage along with an estimated 2,000 people from all over the country.



It was an emotional and inspirational journey for both of us. We had heard about the Japanese American incarceration and the Manzanar camp before. We had also recently watched the film of the powerful Broadway musical "Allegiance" by George Takei. But nothing moved us more than this visit to the actual site to learn first-hand the humiliation and suffering endured by Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Camp

We boarded our bus early in the morning. The Manzanar camp is located approximately

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230 miles north of Los Angeles in an inhospitable valley at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. It was the first of the ten concentration camps built after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, about two months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Shortly afterwards, approximately 120,000 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry (70,000 of them were US-born American citizens) from the West Coast were evicted from their homes and incarcerated in various camps across the country. Their lives changed forever. They were told to report to the US Army Civil Control Administration within days or weeks after receiving the evacuation order. They had to give up their livelihood immediately and could only carry essential personal effects for each member of the family.

Approximately 10,000 people were imprisoned in Manzanar. When the families first arrived, they saw a desolate landscape surrounded by barbed wire and watchtowers. The hastily constructed tar paper-walled barracks where the internees were housed did not shelter them from the extreme weather—the temperatures reached 100° F in the summer and below freezing in the winter. The strong winds of the high desert blanketed the camp with dust and sand and made life even more unbearable.

What shocked the internees the most was the total lack of privacy while living in the barracks. During our visit to Manzanar, we walked around a reconstructed barrack of the living quarters and saw cots with straw-filled mattresses and a few dressers in between them. There was no other furniture in the room. The laundry was hanging along one side of the room while suitcases the internees brought with them were stacked at the corner of the room. We were told that each barrack was divided into four rooms. Any combination of eight individuals was allocated to each room. The rooms were separated by cloth partitions with no walls or doors. The internees also shared communal latrines with no partitions and showers with no stalls.

The hurt and despair suffered by the internees can be summarized by the following words inscribed on one of the mattresses in the barrack:

"When my mother got into the room, she sat down on one of the mattresses and she said, 'My, what a place,' and she never talked about that for

many, many years afterwards."

These words were from Sue Kunitomi Emrey who was sent to Manzanar when she was 19. After the war, she co-founded the Manzanar Committee and the Manzanar Pilgrimage and was the driving force behind the designation of Manzanar as a National Historic Site in 1992.

When the war ended in 1945, Manzanar, along with nine other concentration camps, were closed. Each internee was given \$25 and a one-way train or bus ticket to leave the camp. They were left to their own devices to rebuild their lives after more than three years of unjust incarceration. The apology from the US government and monetary reparations for the former internees who were alive came in 1988, 46 years after Executive Order 9066 was first signed.

The Relevance Today

The political climate we face today has an eerie similarity to what happened to the Japanese Americans 75 years ago. At that time, Japanese Americans' loyalty was questioned because of their ethnicity, even though there was not a single case where either a Japanese American or Japanese immigrant was found guilty of espionage. Because anti-Asian sentiments were running high on the West Coast at the time, Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 was used by the government as the ruse to imprison 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry without due process as required by the Constitution. "They all look the same.... A Jap's a Jap," said Lt. General John L. DeWitt, the Army general who recommended the internment of Japanese Americans.

Yet, for all the gross abuses of power by the US government against its own citizens, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the exclusion orders. Other than the Quakers, there was no outrage expressed by any other civic group in the country.

Fast forward to 2017: will the same thing happen again to Muslim Americans and other immigrant groups?

The fear-mongering anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant rhetoric of then-candidate Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign; Trump's executive order instituting a travel and refugee ban from six Muslim-majority countries; and intensified deportation raids and policies—all

make me wonder whether the dark stain on this nation's history from 75 years ago could once again become a possibility today.

Many Muslims and immigrants are now living in fear since President Trump took office in January. The Muslim travel ban created chaos at the nation's airports and caused stress and uncertainty in many people's lives. In related measures against immigrants, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) now picks up more individuals with minimal or no criminal records, splitting families apart with deportations of one or both parents or even of young people who were brought to the US as children and know no other home.

As citizens of this country, we need to ask ourselves, can we simply stand on the sidelines and watch the government assault the civil liberties and dignity of some of our fellow Americans? Or should we work hard to ensure that what happened to 120,000 Japanese Americans 75 years ago never happens again?

To me, the answer is obvious. That is why on April 29, 2017, I joined more than 2,000 people, many of whom were survivors of the concentration camps, at Manzanar to remember, to reflect, and to vow to work together to fight against injustice and protect the rights of all people regardless of their national origin, color, or creed. Speaker after speaker reminded people to never forget the pain inflicted on the Japanese Americans and to never allow the same thing happen again to anyone, anywhere.

I came back from the Manzanar Pilgrimage feeling reinvigorated. Now more than ever we must stand together against racism and bigotry and embrace compassion instead of fear. We shall never allow another Manzanar!



Nelly and Jim Bertolina representing the PV Democrats at the RPV July 4th fair



Palos Verdes Democrats Officers for 2017-2018

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Parliamentarian: Craig Williams 301-265-9812
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Hospitality: Teresa Savo 310-541-1139
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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
Name* _____ I am registered No Party Preference
* Fill in 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

Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

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 Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree