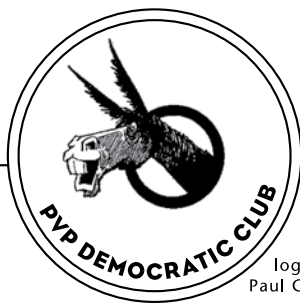


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



logo by
Paul Conrad

January 2011 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

JANUARY MEETING:

DAY AND TIME: January 16, 2:30-5 p.m

LOCATION: Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV

PROGRAM: Annual potluck party and fundraiser

FEBRUARY MEETING:

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, Feb 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Peninsula Center Library, 701 Silver Spur Road, RHE

PROGRAM: TBA

January 2011 Meeting:

Party with Fellow Democrats this Month and Support the DAC

With the beginning of the new year comes the PVP Democratic Club's traditional potluck party. This year's party is taking on added importance: we are dedicating the day to raising money for the Torrance-based Democratic Action Center.

We'll be joined by Democrats from around the South Bay for this special event. It'll be a great opportunity to meet new, like-minded people.

Plan to join us for a good cause and a good time on Sunday, Jan. 16, from 2:30-5 p.m. at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive in RPV.

State Democratic Party Vice Chair Eric Bauman, who also is chair of the L.A. County Democratic Party, has agreed to be our featured speaker. His words of wisdom and inspiration are worth the price of admission alone. Plus we'll have other surprises that are still in the works.

Organizers, which include our club as well as the Beach Cities, LAX-Area, San Pedro, West L.A. and Progressive Democrat clubs, are asking for a \$10-\$20 donation. Give what you can – no one will be turned away for a lack of funds.

You also are asked to bring a simple potluck dish to share. Please coordinate your potluck contribution by contacting organizer Teresa Bird at (310) 325-4354 or tlbird@earthlink.net.

And we're having a "White Donkey Auction" (can't be white elephant, since we're Democrats!) Bring a holiday gift you got but don't want – it should be unwrapped.

The Democratic Action Center, run by our club's former president, Tony Hale, is the only year-round party headquarters in the Los Angeles basin. It has played a key role in getting the vote out in the South Bay, engaging hundreds of volunteers working tens of thousands of hours to get Democrats elected.

"We were a major volunteer location during the '08 election," Tony says. "In 2010 we were reported to be the most successful volunteer operation even when compared to neighboring headquarters with paid full-time staff."

You could say the DAC's success is what has left it in financial trouble. There was so much activity there for this past November election that the center is now in the red. That is why local Democratic Clubs like ours are coming together to help keep the office open by sponsoring this month's fundraiser potluck.

"Our office runs on a budget of approximately \$1,500 per month including rent, utilities, and materials," Tony says. "We are an all-volunteer run operation, so all our funds go into keeping our operations going."

Right now, Tony and his team are focused on working to win the 2012 presidential election. Please join us to help him keep the center open by attending our potluck party on Jan. 16.

November Meeting Report By Connie Sullivan

With close to 50 people in attendance, club President Kay Cooperman Jue called the meeting to order. She introduced Ryan Low, PV Young Democrats leader, who reported their group is getting active in the Community College Board

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of Trustees election. Next Hans Grellmann spoke briefly about the club's election activities and introduced the first speaker, Dr. Charles Sie.



Dr. Charles Sie speaks about China

Dr. Sie, who holds a doctorate in electrical engineering from Iowa State University, came to the U.S. from China in 1950 when he was 14 years old. His family was escaping communism and he believed that he would never see China again. However, in 1978 he returned to his birth country as an invited guest as part of a contingent of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) members. At that time there was only one hotel in Beijing and in Tiananmen Square there were huge posters of Marx, Stalin, Lenin and Engels. He returned again in 1985 as part of a joint venture between Xerox (his employer) and Shanghai. He's returned many times since.

Dr. Sie went on to compare China with the U.S. in terms of size, economic indicators, etc. He spoke of the comparable size of our two countries but pointed out that the U.S. has four times the arable land of China, which is very mountainous. It's current GDP is one-third that of the U.S., but increasing at a fast pace. From 1985 to 1995 China was assisted by overseas Chinese investors because western companies didn't believe they could make money in China. In 2001 China joined the World Trade Organization and it's economy "really took off", according to Sie.

China created a meritocracy in which students compete by taking a test and the top 1% go to university. Of those who get a university education the top tier go into

government. The Chinese are grateful to their government because of all the improvements it has made to their country and their individual lives. Nine Politburo members run the country, but so far, they have made good decisions for the country.

Dr. Sie sees the greatest short term threat to China in the shortage of water for rice farming and pointed out that the Chinese river water supplies flow from Tibet. This gives the Dalai Lama great power over China's future. Anyone wanting more information about China is invited to contact Dr. Sie at chsie@aol.com.



Jim Brandt speaking about Polly Dicta

The last speaker was Jim Brandt who spoke of his new initiative and book, both of which he entitled Polly Dicta. As many members will remember, Jim ran for Congress in our 46th district in two recent elections.

According to the Polly Dicta website's (pollydicta.com) About Us page: "The large corporations and special interests have controlled our government far too long... The time has come for us to tell our elected leaders who they represent. Because of the cost of political campaigns the leaders give more access to the big money interest than they do to the voters of their district. Polly Dicta is a movement to use the Internet as a vehicle to speak to our leaders as a voice that represents enough people to advance government reform. The book, "Polly Dicta - Giving real democracy a voice" defines the three government reforms and four causes Polly Dicta advances."

The three government reform areas are: campaign finance, redistricting and the budget process. If a person joins the free website, s/he will be asked from time to time to participate

in surveys about these issues. The results of the surveys will be conveyed to appropriate Congress members so they can know what their voters think about these issues. You can learn more by going to the Polly Dicta website and joining this movement.

Nominating Committee Happy New Year Everyone!!

The Nominating Committee would like to hear from our present board members for an update on their availability to serve again for next year. We would also like to invite all members who are interested in taking part in expanding their P.V. Democratic club leadership opportunities next year to email Barbara Epstein at moccasinbarb@cox.net.

Health, Happiness, and Hope For The New Year,

Barbara Epstein, Carol Moeller, and Ruth McGrew

Book Report : The Political Mind, by George Lakoff by Hans Grellman

I have just read a book that has changed how I read my newspaper, watch the news on TV and interpret political statements. I see the world through new eyes.

Most of us have heard of or read Lakoff's first book: "Don't Think of an Elephant", which introduced us to the idea of framing. In "The Political Mind" Lakoff takes us through the new understanding of how language can physically anchor ideas in our brains and how these ideas can then be activated by the proper choice of language.

Beyond framing, we are introduced to the concepts of biconceptualism, metaphors, cultural narratives, neural bindings, mirror neurons, recruitment, subconscious thought, privateering, cognitive policy and more. All interesting stuff.

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If we want to understand progressive and conservative thinking, if we want to learn how to successfully explain our progressive values to others, including conservatives, then this book gives us the necessary knowledge. Lakoff explains in detail the difference between the progressive values of empathy and protection versus the conservative values of authority and obedience.

Healthcare is a Moral Issue by Hans Grellmann

No one knows when illness or an accident will strike. Potentially everyone is at risk. It can be a matter of life or death.

Progressives see Health Care as a Shared Risk System. The government has a moral responsibility to protect all citizens from the risk that medical care as a result of an illness or accident will cause undue financial hardship. It is morally unacceptable to leave anyone unprotected. The primary focus must be care for the patient. Doctors should make the decisions.

Summary: We are a community. We share the risk.

Conservatives see Health Insurance as an Individual Risk System. Conservatives want a market of private for-profit insurance companies. Citizens are responsible to provide (buy) their own risk protection. This works if you are wealthy. It does not work for the poor. Because of cost, many people will be unprotected. There is an inherent conflict between care for the patient and profits for the insurance companies. Insurance companies make life or death decisions to provide or deny care. Care for the patient is not the sole focus.

Summary: You're on your own.

Aren't California's Voters Terrific? by Hans Grellmann

It's Thanksgiving, and we have plenty to be thankful for. The voters of this great state elected the entire slate of Democratic statewide candidates, at a time when the rest of the country was voting for conservatives of various degrees of strangeness. We can be grateful that the Tea Party movement did not find a home here. The local tea party folks, the Peninsula Patriots, are but a faint

shadow of the nuttiness of their red state counterparts.

Jerry Brown will have his hands full trying to solve the financial difficulties he inherits. We voted for him because he knows his way around Sacramento and because he has always been open to new ideas. It will be great to have a Democrat as governor!

The voters also decided to change how political business will be done in this state in the future. They voted against gerrymandering and they voted for a simple majority vote requirement to pass a budget. It will be interesting to watch how these changes will alter behavior in Sacramento in the coming years. There is still a piece of unfinished business: To change the vote requirement for raising taxes to a simple majority. Let's hope that George Lakoff can make that happen next year.

Unlike voters in the rest of the country, the voters here take global warming seriously and they voted no on proposition 23. That means that California will be the leader in transitioning to a way of life and an economy with more of our energy coming from renewable sources

and less from fossil fuels. On this subject, we should really be grateful to Arnold Schwarzenegger, who, even though he is a Republican, is convinced by the climate science and is not a global warming denier like so many Republicans. Without his backing, AB 32 would not have been enacted.

Annual Dues Delayed Until July

A reminder to club members: we are not collecting our annual dues this month as we have in past years.

Last March, the membership adopted revised bylaws for the club that established a July-to-June fiscal year. As a result from now on, we will collect our annual dues beginning in July.

In addition, we will now hold our annual membership meeting in July instead of January.



Some of the PV Democrats who volunteered to work for our candidates during the fall campaign

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Palos Verdes Peninsula
Democratic Club
Founded 1952

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded in 1952 - One of the oldest and largest Democratic Clubs in California

As a member of
the PVP
Democratic Club,
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

Name _____ I am a registered Democrat
Name* _____ I am a registered Democrat

* Fill in if Applying as a Family - 2 memberships

Residence Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Mailing Address _____

(If different from residence)

City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

*Select One: Individual: \$ 20.00/Year Family Membership \$30.00/Year
 Young Adult \$10.00/Year

Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

Please contact me to help in the following areas:

- Hospitality Newsletter Membership Publicity Correspondence
 Voter Registration Campaign Work Website/Facebook Phone Tree
 I might offer my home for a meeting or social event