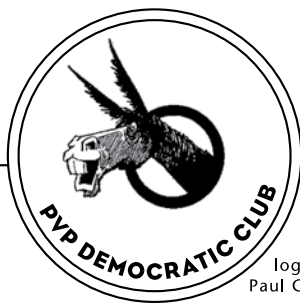


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

November 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

NOVEMBER MEETING:

TIME: Sunday, November 20, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m

LOCATION: Ridgecrest Intermediate School, 28915 Northbay Road, RPV

PROGRAM: The Privatization of Public Assets and Services

JANUARY MEETING:

DATE: January 15, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Pacific Unitarian Church

PROGRAM: To Be Announced

NOTE: There will be no meeting in December

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November 20, 2011 Meeting: The Privatization of Public Assets and Services

We will hear from two very accomplished speakers – one from a private institution and the other from the public sector. Each will be addressing a different aspect of the privatization movement – privatization of transportation infrastructure or privatization of public services. They will enlighten us about what is going on today with this hot-issue topic, locally and nationally.

Our first speaker, U.S.C. Associate Professor Lisa Schweitzer, got our attention when she wrote an article in July of this year for the Los Angeles Times Opinion Section, titled: "For Sale: U.S. Infrastructure? The Privatization Debate." She said, "Greece is having a fire sale of its publicly-owned transportation system, with planes, trains and roads all being sold off as the country attempts to dig out of its debt crisis. Americans should watch and learn: We could well be privatizing large segments of our own transportation system soon because of the U.S. debt crisis." She goes on to say that, "So far, privately run transportation projects show mixed outcomes." Her conclusions if the U.S. avoids defaulting offer a way out of the dilemma.

Professor Schweitzer is part of U.S.C.'s School of Public Policy Planning and Development, which it says is ranked second in the United States. On her blog – www.lisaschweitzer.com, "Sustainable Cities and Transport" – Working to Understand the Complex Connections between cities, people and environments – there are numerous articles currently in which she discusses examples of privatizing transportation that include excellent graphs. She also comments on the Los Angeles Times

article published on Sunday, October 23rd, about the consequences of the California bullet train route through the Central Valley, a hot topic all along that corridor, as well as elsewhere throughout our state – and country.

Our second speaker, Tim Steed, is a Labor Relations Representative for the Orange County Employees Association. OCEA represents 18,000 municipal workers in Orange County in various jurisdictions. Steed's role is directly representing employees and participating in OCEA's aggressive political action campaigns. He has chosen the topic: "Outsourcing the Democratic Party," which should prompt another lively discussion!

Prior to working for OCEA, Steed was the President of the California Young Democrats in 2006-2007. He has served in various positions with the CA Young Democrats and the California Democratic Party. Currently Steed is a delegate to the California Democratic Party, and active in his local Democratic Community.

Come and be motivated to take part in these debates that are going on locally and nationally. All are invited to hear what these two excellent speakers have to tell us and to motivate to us to act and to elect Democrats.

October Meeting Report By Carol Moeller

Club Business

With almost 200 people in attendance, the meeting began with introductions of board members of co-hosting clubs from the Beach Cities, Torrance and PVP, and San Pedro and the Progressive Clubs were also recognized. Also introduced were 66th Assembly District

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Al Muratsuchi, candidate for Assembly Member from our new 66th District

candidate Al Muratsuchi, 53rd Assembly District representative Betsy Butler and RPV city council candidate Dave Emehiser. Hans Grellmann announced an Occupy Torrance event on Oct 26th and mentioned that sign ideas can be downloaded at www.occupylosangeles.org. A vote on the proposed PVP club by-laws verbiage change was taken and the proposed change passed.

Robert Greenwald of Brave New Films



Robert Greenwald, founder of Brave New Films

Robert Greenwald shared with us that the juxtaposition of the events of 911 and his father's memorial service forced him to realize that a great gift his father gave him was a commitment to social values. In his decision to continue his father's passion, Greenwald founded Brave New Films, "a media company that uses moving images to educate, influence, and empower viewers to take action around

issues that matter". To the producer whose films have included 55 Emmy nominations, the most rewarding reaction to his films are viewer statements like "I didn't know that!" Ten years later, he has huge Facebook and Twitter followers and his You Tube viewers alone have hit 65 million.

The concept for Greenwald's latest film, "Koch Brothers Exposed" has roots in an article from the New Yorker written by Jane Meyer entitled *Covert Operations; The Billionaire Brothers who are waging a war against Obama*. In addition to providing most of the financial backing for the Tea Party, the Koch brothers funded many of the legal briefs in support of the Citizens United decision. For our audience, Greenwald presented two vignettes from his film and explained that the words in quotes below provide the essence of each: Echo Chamber ("Ideas Matter"). Politicians are actors who read from a script, and the Koch brothers want to write the scrip. For example, despite proof to the contrary, they say Social Security is going broke so it needs to be privatized and also the age at which seniors can begin to receive it needs to be raised. Mainstream media then repeat this misinformation and right-wing politicians then incorporate these frames into their rhetoric. Cancer Penn Road ("Ideology has Consequences"). Clusters of cancers have appeared in extremely high rates in the people who live along creeks that contain discharge from the Koch-owned Georgia - Pacific Company. The Koch brothers have successfully fought to keep the EPA underfunded so as to remain unable to function as a counter to this criminal behavior.

Switching topics, Greenwald then showed two videos about war costs.

NATO Bombing RTA and Panetta Wrong War Costs ("Laying down the Tracks"). For each soldier we send to Afghanistan, which is the 3rd poorest nation on earth, we spend one million dollars each year, and we pay an additional horrible price in American and Afghani lives. Politicians on both sides of the aisle are guilty of protecting war dollars spent to benefit the constituents they represent.

Future projects include a new Greenwald film on voter suppression coming out November 8. They are currently working on a campaign to answer the question "Who are the 1%?" and hope to get a Ford grant to fund a project entitled "Beyond Bars" that would explore our mass incarceration system.

In a lively Question & Answer session, Greenwald responded to a query about charter schools saying that teachers should be the guides for education and although he has been in conversation with teachers, no immediate plans have been made for his company to address this issue. Regarding possible plans for an expose on climate change, he said that others are tackling this. A question about jobs garnered Greenwald's hopeful remark that now that President Obama is hitting this subject harder, perhaps the impetus for more focus on jobs has begun. His answer to a question about what role the mainstream media has in "getting the message out" was that they have no role because mainstream media is profit-driven so social media is the only way to get the message out in this climate. In answer to a question regarding Occupy Wall Street, Greenwald applauded the movement and emphasized that real change doesn't happen so much by elections as by social movements, and used the example that LBJ likely wouldn't have signed the Equal Rights Amendment had not the people demanded it.

A post on Greenwald's website after our meeting stated that he saw a "terrific turnout, real passion, and great energy at (the) south bay meeting".

PVP Democrats Register New Citizens to Vote By Connie Sullivan



Club member Judy Willis helps a new citizen complete the voter registration application

On September 21, club member Judy Willis and I attended the new citizens swearing in ceremony at the Los Angeles Convention Center for the purpose of registering Democratic voters.

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The swearing ceremonies take place once a month and are usually held at the Convention Center or at Fairplex in Pomona.

There is a continuing need to have volunteers help with this task, so if you have an interest in doing this, please let me know and I can provide you with the details.

You can make a pleasant day of it – there's plenty of time to take a leisurely lunch at LA Live and make it back before the new citizens finish their afternoon ceremony. And it's a very moving experience to see how happy the new citizens are as they take their photos with the life-sized cardboard representation of President Obama.

New PVP Democratic Club Accountant By Connie Sullivan

You may have heard about the fraud committed by Los Angeles County Democratic Party's longtime treasurer and wondered if your club's treasury was affected. It was not.

We have always controlled our own accounts and did not turn over control to any third party treasurer. The county party's treasurer did assist us in completing our required state reports. We've secured the services of another accounting firm, Crummitt and Associates, to fulfill that role. We will keep you apprised if we see a need to change to a new accounting firm in the future.

Seeking Pre-endorsement Caucus Delegates and Board Members By Connie Sullivan

This January 21, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party will hold their pre-endorsement caucus. This is the first step in the party's candidate endorsement process and is held prior to the party's state convention in February. The candidates seeking seats in the State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congress will be before the delegates at the caucus.

Our club, which is one of the largest clubs in Region 5, will be able to send 7 delegates. If you would like to participate in this process, please let me know (310-378-1554, pvedems@gmail.com).

Recently two positions on our board opened up. We're now seeking a recording secretary and a co-second vice president (programs). If you have an interest in taking on one of these

positions, please let me know (310-378-1554, pvedems@gmail.com).

Framing of the Abortion Issue Revisited by Hans Grellmann

Drew Westen, in his book *The Political Brain*, has a chapter on the issue of abortion. Here are some excerpts:

"That 66 percent of Americans support abortion rights in some form but 85 percent support imposing restrictions on it makes clear that we are not only looking at conflicts between Americans but conflicts within Americans. Americans are ambivalent about abortion, and this has powerful implications for how Democrats should talk about it."

"Whether they know it or not, most people have a graded view of when a fetus becomes a person."

"The longer a pregnancy continues, the more we are confronted with a conflict between the rights of a person (the mother) and the rights of an emerging person (the fetus). That's why the vast majority of Americans oppose late-term abortions even though they favor a woman's right to choose."

Westen then proposes a principled stand that Democrats should take:

"Abortion is a difficult and often painful decision for a woman to make. It's a decision only she can make, based on the dictates of her own conscience and faith, not on the dictates of someone else's. But except under exceptional circumstances, such as rape, incest, or danger to her health, she should make that decision as early as she can, so she is not aborting a fetus that is increasingly becoming like a person."

If Democrats talked like that, then the Republican stand on abortion as murder under all circumstances would be seen as the extreme position it really is.

Republicans are excellent Parrots by Hans Grellmann

Frank Luntz tells Republicans what to say and they all mindlessly repeat what they've been told, whether it makes sense or not:

Class warfare, Job creators, Obamacare, Government takeover, Socialized medicine, Tax burden, Death tax, Polly want a cracker, Polly want ALL the crackers !

Progressive Master Narrative by The Framing Project group

- We believe in the values of fairness, tolerance and justice, both domestically and in foreign affairs.
- We believe in sharing our nation's wealth equitably. We believe in a progressive tax structure. We believe that the most successful among us should contribute their appropriate share to our society.
- We believe that every American who works hard should have the opportunity to prosper.
- We believe that every American has a responsibility to contribute to our society.
- We reject freeloaders, whether corporate or private.
- We believe in the American community.
- We reject the notion that it's ok to have children grow up poor and hungry in our country.
- We believe that our government has an essential role to protect and empower all Americans.
- We believe in a well-regulated market.
- We love our country. We believe we can learn from other countries too. We reject the right-wing interpretation of American Exceptionalism.
- We believe that America should be strong but we do not believe in American hegemony.
- We believe in religious freedom and tolerance.

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Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club
 Founded 1952

P.O. Box 2234,
 Rolling Hills Est. Ca 90274

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 - two memberships

Residence Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell _____

Mailing Address _____

(If different from residence)

City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

*Select One: Individual: \$ 25.00/Year Family Membership \$40.00/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