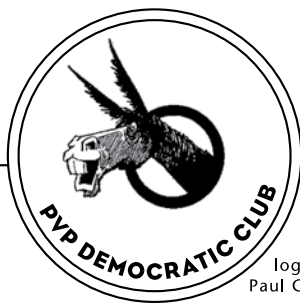


Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

Founded 1952



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Paul Conrad

June 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

JUNE MEETING:

NEW TIME: Thursday, June 23, 7-9 PM
LOCATION: Pacific Unitarian Church,
5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV
PROGRAM: Annenberg Project at
Lower Point Vicente

JULY MEETING:

DATE: Sunday, July 17, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Pacific Unitarian Church
PROGRAM: New board installation and
potluck!

Inside This Month's Issue:

**June Membership Meeting
Announcement** - Page 1

May Meeting Report - Page 2

**Member Commentary:
Framing the Abortion Issue
By Hans Grellmann** - Page 2-3

2011-'12 Membership Drive
Page 3

**Background Information on the
Annenberg Project** - Page 3

June 2011 Meeting: Annenberg Project, Yes or No? Get Answers at June Meeting

It's either a generous and irresistible gift to the Peninsula that will add to the usability and beauty of vacant property near the Point Vicente Interpretive Center in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Or it's a misguided use of an irreplaceable, still-natural, prime piece of coastal bluff-top real estate offering a priceless panorama of the Pacific.

Both points of view are on either side of a progressively bolder line being drawn between community opinions about the proposed Annenberg Project at Lower Point Vicente.

At our meeting this month, club members will be able to judge for themselves on which side of the issue they belong. We will have an opportunity to hear and then ask questions of Annenberg Foundation Executive Director Leonard Aube, who will present his organization's vision for the land at the heart of this dispute.

Also on hand will be Ara Michael Mihranian, deputy director of RPV's Community Development Department, who has played a lead role in the Annenberg discussions.

This month we'll meet on a weekday evening since our regular meeting time falls on Father's Day. Please join us on Thursday, June 23, 7-9 p.m. at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive in Rancho Palos Verdes.

The foundation's Web site describes the proposed development this way:

"The park ... would be a beautifully landscaped, thoughtfully designed learning zone, providing a combination of outdoor exhibits and programs on topics relevant to the region and community: a Tongva village; an archeological dig; flora and fauna, geology and weather; local pioneers, including whalers and ranchers; and much, much more.

"On the most inland side of the park there would be an education center largely devoted to teaching people about mammals they typically consider to be part of their own families: their dogs and cats. There is much to know about the companion animals that have evolved from the wild but now inhabit our homes. The Learning Center would provide a broad-based education program, designed to help us better understand how to adopt, care for and understand our four-footed friends. It would also offer sophisticated animal adoption counseling and support."

The so-called Discovery Park would be funded by a \$45 million gift from the Annenberg Foundation.

Opposition to the Annenberg proposal centers on the alleged inappropriate use of city parkland that the development represents. The federal government deeded the land – located on the ocean side of Palos Verdes Drive South just south of Hawthorne Boulevard – to RPV for outdoor recreation "closely oriented to the attributes of the Pacific Ocean."

An unsigned Website created to collect signatures against the Annenberg proposal claims the "enormous building complex would obliterate the scenic open space and recreation values of the Park."

The Website also claims "the complex is predominantly a pet adoption center ... with a veterinary facility, and related offices and parking, and an educational exhibit space."

It concludes: "It's not outdoors. It's not recreational. It has nothing to do with the Pacific Ocean...and it may not even be public."

For more information prior to our meeting, visit www.annenbergfoundation.org and www.savelpv.com.

May Meeting Report

By Connie Sullivan

The May meeting got underway with President Kay Cooperman Jue announcing the slate of candidates for the 2011-2012 Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club Board and conducting a voice vote to accept the slate.



Dr. Carmen Estrada-Schaye, President, National Women's Political Caucus South Bay

Kay then spoke of learning that new Republican majorities in Congress and state legislatures were moving to curtail women's reproductive rights. Her first thought was: "What the heck is going on – wasn't all this settled?" She quoted from a recent Los Angeles Times article: [a] "reempowered... anti-abortion bloc... seeking to shorten the window during which a woman may have an abortion" or focusing on "eliminating federal dollars for abortion providers." In all, Republicans have put forward 916 measures relating to abortion issues. Kay invited two experts to speak on this topic.

Dr. Carmen Estrada-Schaye is current president of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) South Bay and a history professor at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She began by reminding us that 40 years ago, four remarkable women founded the NWPC: Shirley Chisholm, Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, and Betty Friedan. Thanks to them, women have made strides in sports, medicine, politics, and the workplace.

Dr. Estrada-Schaye moved on to talk about HR 3 "The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act", which demonstrated Speaker Boehner's intent to make it a high priority to roll back the clock on a woman's right to choose. This recently passed House Bill, which will not pass the Senate, "removes tax credits for insurance companies that pay for abortions under the new healthcare law and it would prevent women from using tax-saver

accounts to pay for abortions", according to the LA Times.

Further, the word "forcible" before "rape" was included in HR 3 in order to limit the exemptions for payment in the case of rape. (Federal dollars can be used to pay for abortions in the case of rape or incest.)

Dr. Estrada-Schaye went on to describe HR 358, "The Protect Life Act" that "amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to prohibit federal funds from being used to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion services."

Dr. Estrada-Schaye then enumerated, state-by-state, proposed legislation to curb abortions. Many are imposing waiting periods, parental consent, counseling, mandatory viewing of an ultrasound and/or listening to the fetal heartbeat.



Dinah Stephens, Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project

The second speaker, Dinah Stephens is public affairs coordinator for the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project (PPAP) of Los Angeles County, a sister organization to Planned Parenthood. Ms. Stephens began by enumerating the services provided by Planned Parenthood – contraception, education, cancer screening and abortion (which, comprises only a small percentage of their services.) The 17 Planned Parenthood health centers in Los Angeles County serve 120,00 visitors a year.

Ms. Stephens closely monitors the federal budget process and believes Congress is no friend of women and family planning. It is chipping away at a woman's right to choose and has made Planned Parenthood the issue, along with abortion and even Pap testing. With HR 1, the

budget bill, the House stripped Title X funding for family planning, which has been in place since 1970. Planned Parenthood is the largest recipient of these funds. Additionally, an amendment to HR 1, the Pence amendment specifically banned federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

Since the House was so hostile to Planned Parenthood, the PPAP decided to focus on the Senate. PPAP successfully convinced the Senate to make the Pence amendment a stand-alone bill. It was defeated 42-58. The Senate also restored \$300 million of the Title X funding (of the original \$317 million).

In the question and answer period, one questioner observed that the myriad of restrictive state laws that are designed to goad pro-choice groups into litigating these issues so that Roe v. Wade can be re-decided by the current right-leaning Supreme Court. Another audience member brought out the fact that for every dollar spent on Planned Parenthood achieves \$9 dollars of savings.

The final portion of the meeting was turned over to Hans Grellmann who led a discussion on framing the abortion issue, described in his companion article.

Member Commentary: Framing the Abortion Issue by Hans Grellmann

This is one in a series of articles that are part of the club's Lakoff Project, named after UC Berkeley's Linguistics Professor George Lakoff. The aim of the project is to help Democrats speak more effectively about current issues.

Conservatives use the frames Pro-Life and Murder.

The pro-life frame implies that if you are not with them, you are anti-life or pro-death. The frame of murder is based on their purported belief that a human being is created at conception and therefore if you end a pregnancy, you kill not an embryo but a human being.

These frames are cleverly chosen and powerful. They are capable of generating strong emotions in right-wing voters when Republicans want to turn out their base during elections.

It is very important that we never talk in these frames! We should never use the term pro-life and we should not get into a discussion about when an embryo turns into a human

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

being. That's the trap conservatives set for us. Don't fall for it.

Progressives use the frames Pro-Choice and Personal Freedom.

These frames imply that opponents are against the freedom to make a personal choice.

The progressive position is this: A woman has the right to make decisions about her body including the right to choose whether to end a pregnancy or not. The government has no business interfering with that personal choice, as has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

An additional progressive frame is safety. We should stress the fact that legal termination of pregnancy is a health issue. Untold numbers of women have suffered injury or death as a result of unsafe illegal abortions.

Framing is all about choosing the right words. Here are some words to avoid:

Abortion - use ending a pregnancy.

Abortion rights - use reproductive rights.

Pro-life - use anti-choice.

Background Information on the Proposed Annenberg Project

What people are saying:

Tom Long, mayor, RPV Excerpts from his August 2010 letter to the editor of the Daily Breeze (also published on his Web site)

"The Annenberg proposal will not take away 'pristine' open space. Two square miles (or 15%) of RPV is owned by the city in The Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The Annenberg proposal would be in a city park, not the preserve. Currently that park is occupied mostly by a commercial farm and fields of weeds. Much of the money for the Annenberg proposal will be spent restoring land that has been neglected and closed to the public for decades, increasing the city's habitat space and usable public parkland. The proposed building will be less than 3% of the land area and will have little impact on views. It will broaden educational opportunities and public access to the area. The building will augment the available civic buildings in the city which provide only limited public meeting spaces. Those are the reasons I support the Annenberg proposal."

John Del Arroz, coastal program analyst, California Coastal Commission

Excerpts from his Sept. 13, 2010, letter to the city of RPV commenting on the draft environmental impact report for the Annenberg project

"While animal bereavement counseling, animal care, and animal adoptions are admirable components that may fit into the overall goal of the project, it is debatable whether these uses fit into the policy goals of the Passive Recreation/Open Space Recreation designation. . . . Furthermore, such services do not require a location on an ocean fronting bluff top designated for open space and recreation to be successful. Elimination of these uses from the project would result in a reduced footprint and reduced environmental impacts to the site."

David Siegenthaler, Pacific West Regional Office, National Park Service

Excerpts from his Sept. 15, 2010, letter to the city commenting on the draft EIR. Note: POU stands for Program of Utilization

"Although the proposed plan includes some elements that would be acceptable under the present POU (such as trails, restrooms, picnic areas), the proposed plan contains, in our view, many elements that would not fall under an eligible public recreational use, such as a building for general governmental purposes, an animal care and adoption facility, a theatre, space for civic events, and general education purposes. . . ."

"One of the most egregious omissions of the Draft EIR is its failure to establish the need for the proposed project. . . ."

"Similarly egregious is any analysis and rationale that would justify the development of such a facility that would occupy what is now precious open space land. . . .What other areas provide similar open space and natural area experiences, and why do you find it necessary to add one more development to this prime open space?"

Patti Keating, supervisor, Office of Grants and Local Services, California Department of Parks and Recreation . Excerpts from her Oct 26, 2010, letter to the city.

"While the Annenberg Foundation has made a considerable investment in their plans for this site, public purpose would best be

served by preserving invaluable coastal open space and improving the site for its public outdoor recreation use values as proposed, and relocating the nonconforming uses to another, more compatible location. This would be a win-win for the public, the city and the Annenberg Foundation. If the City of Rancho Palos Verdes chooses to go forward with the construction of the 51,000 sq. ft. facility as detailed in the EIR, the city needs to purchase and open to the public replacement property in exchange for the outdoor recreation acreage that will be converted within Lower Point Vicente Park."

2011-'12 Membership Drive

By Lynn McLeod, Membership Chair

Our club has an exciting year ahead! The club will have an enthusiastic new board and plans for a series of well-informed speakers on a wide range of topics – environment, local government, state budget and legislation, health, education, public services and others.

Of course, we will be working to elect Democratic candidates to offices in 2012 and beyond.

Now is the time to renew your membership and stay involved.

Please complete the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and send it with your check (\$25 for an individual, \$40 for a family) to the address on the form. If it's more convenient for you, you are also welcome to bring your check to the next meeting.

Our club will never turn anyone away who cannot afford the annual dues. If you fall into that category, please contact me at lynn.mcleod@cox.net or mail in your membership form noting your situation

Thank you for helping us build a meaningful voice for good government at all levels.

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Founded 1952

Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club

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
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Amount enclosed _____ Renewal New Member

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