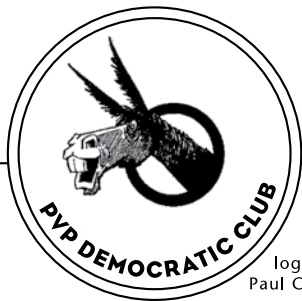


Palos Verdes Peninsula  
Democratic Club  
Founded 1952



# November 2009 Newsletter

P.O. Box 2234, Rolling Hills Est. CA 90274  
Visit Us on the Web at [www.pvpdemocrats.org](http://www.pvpdemocrats.org)  
"One of the oldest Democratic Clubs in California"

## COMING EVENTS

**NOVEMBER MEETING:**  
Sunday, Nov. 15, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Community Room, Peninsula  
Center Library, 701 Silver Spur  
Road, RHE

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:** Candidate for  
State Insurance Commissioner, and  
a Progressive Democrat author Brad  
Parker

**NOTE:** NO meeting in December.

**JANUARY MEETING:**  
Save the Date:  
Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010  
Installation of new officers  
Scheduled featured speaker: LA  
Times business columnist Michael  
Hiltzik



Hundreds of people turned out for the South Bay's observance of the International Day of Climate Action on Oct. 24. About a dozen PVP Democratic Club members joined a human chain stretching northward from the Manhattan Beach pier to create the "Amazing Waving Human Tide Line." The line of people was positioned on the sand where the tide line is predicted to rise if carbon dioxide levels in the Earth's atmosphere keep increasing above the safe 350 parts per million limit.

### Inside This Month's Issue:

**November Membership Meeting  
Announcement** - Page 1

**October Meeting Report**  
Page 2

**Proposed Slate for 2010**  
Page 2

**Recommended Reading:  
The Waxman Report**  
Page 3

**Capitalism: A Poem by Darren  
Glen Attebery** Page 3

### Candidate and Progressive Dem Author to Headline November Meeting

For the club's last meeting of the year, we'll enjoy a potpourri program. We'll meet Sunday, Nov. 15, beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Peninsula Center Library, 701 Silver Spur Road in RHE.

First, we'll elect next year's board (see related story). Then we'll hear from a Democrat who wants to be our next state insurance commissioner. And we'll learn about the Democratic Party's progressive movement from the author of a new book on the topic.

Hector De La Torre so far is the only Southern Californian running for the insurance commissioner post. As a state Assemblyman, he has represented the mid-city region of Los Angeles County – including South Gate, Bellflower and Downey – since being elected in 2004. He currently chairs the Assembly Committee on Accountability.

According to his campaign material, De La Torre "has spent his career standing up to powerful special interests to protect workers, consumers and taxpayers. ...He passed the law to stop (health) insurers from canceling coverage when you get sick, just when you need it most."

continued from page 1



Hans Grellmann does a Q&A at the October Membership Meeting

Unfortunately that bill, AB 2, which would have limited insurance-policy rescissions, was vetoed by the governor last month.

Author and Democratic Party activist Brad Parker has just published a book titled, "Left Turn Only: Dispatches From the Progressive Underground." He'll tell us about the Progressive movement and how he believes it will improve the Democratic Party.

Parker is president of Valley Democrats United in the San Fernando Valley. He has served as an officer of the Progressive Caucus of the state Democratic Party and on the board of trustees of the Progressive Democrats of America. He has written for The Huffington Post.

Professionally, Parker is an award-winning recording artist, songwriter, producer and musician.

Please join us for this lively and varied program.

**October Meeting Report**  
By Ruth McGrew

The program at the meeting was a slide show and talk given by Hans Grellmann about "350". What is 350? It stands for 350 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and is also the name of an organization (350.org) which has been formed to increase the awareness of the general public to global warning.

Scientists know that the Earth's temperature increased 3 degrees from the time of the last ice age (which was 15,000 years ago) until the 18th century. Since 1900 the temperature of the Earth has increased 1.3 degrees. This is a large increase in just 100 years, and is coming from the large increases in the content of CO2 in our atmosphere.

According to NASA climatologist James Hansen, "if humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted" we will have to reduce CO2 from the current level of 390 ppm to at most 350. The impact of current CO2 level is that the glaciers all over the world are melting, ocean levels are rising by two inches a year and becoming more acid, which is harming marine life and bleaching coral reefs. Australia is suffering the worst drought it has had in 1000 years. We have also recently had an increased number of powerful hurricanes and cyclones.

We must lower our CO2 level! But at present we are adding 2 ppm every year. Scientists have predicted that if CO2 rises to 550 ppm, it could not be reversed and the Earth would not sustain the projected human population.

Many countries became concerned about this problem in 1988 and they formed a group called International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). In 1997 the group met and ratified an agreement to work to lower the CO2 level, which was called the Kyoto Agreement. The U.S. is the world's worst polluter, but it refused to abide by the Kyoto Agreement. In 2007

a meeting was held in Bali and a roadmap was established for managing climate change. In December 2009 the IPCC will meet again in Copenhagen and President Obama has agreed that the U.S. will play a constructive role this time.

Nine out of ten Americans want action toward reducing our use of carbon, but we must influence politicians to legislate the needed changes for achieving this reduction. The 350 organization is a world movement which is dedicated to influencing world leaders to that end. The PVP Democratic Club is a part of the South Bay 350 Climate Action Group and club members were encouraged to attend the group's South Bay event in Manhattan Beach as part of International Climate Action Day on October 24.

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**Proposed Slate for 2010  
Board is Announced**

The by-laws of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club require that a slate of officers for the following year's board be published in the November newsletter. Then, election of the new board is to be held at the November general membership meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 15, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Center Library.

The following is the slate of officers for the 2010 board as proposed by the club's Nominating Committee:

- President, Kay Cooperman Jue
- First Vice President, Hans Grellmann
- Second Vice President, Ron Smith
- Recording Secretary, Mary Meade
- Corresponding Secretary, Sheila Papayans
- Treasurer, Jerry Parker

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Nov. 15 meeting. If there are no additional nominations, election of the slate of officers will be by majority vote of those club members present. If more than one person has been nominated for any office, election will be by secret ballot.

I would like to thank our Nominating Committee, Barbara Epstein, Rascha Hall

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

and Jean McDonald, for their hard work and dedication to devising a slate of officers for our club. Their committee also was able to fill all of our standing-committee chairs, which are appointed positions. I will announce all of the chairs at the Nov. 15 meeting.

Kay Cooperman Jue  
President

### Recommended Reading

#### The Waxman Report

By Henry Waxman, with Joshua Green  
Review by Kay Cooperman Jue

Los Angeles-area Congressman Henry Waxman makes good use of his nearly 35 years in the U.S. House of Representatives to provide an insider's look at how laws are made.

The message this Democratic lawmaker wants the reader to take away from his book is, politicians and government aren't all bad; in fact there is real potential for legislative achievement that will improve our lives in very tangible ways.

To illustrate his point, Waxman dissects strategies used for some of the biggest issues he has taken on over the years, such as the Clean Air Act, nutrition labeling on packaged foods and the use of steroids by pro baseball players.

What I took away from this book was a new understanding of just how tenacious – not to mention creative – our elected representatives must be to get anything done in Washington. For example, it took Waxman and his like-minded colleagues 30 years to stare down the powerful and well-funded tobacco industry before successfully passing laws regulating cigarette manufacturing and marketing to protect public health.

How clear it became to me why so little gets done in Sacramento. Term limits have turned our legislators into ineffectual short-timers who have no prayer of beating special interests that have all the time in the world to stymie their efforts.

The book brought news headlines to life – I now have a better understanding of the purpose of the myriad Congressional hearings we hear about, the work of subcommittees and oversight committees and the partisan as well as geographic politics at work in our nation's capital.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in how government works, and especially to anyone considering holding public office. Future lawmakers can learn a lot from Waxman about how to maneuver through the system to get things done.

Note: the book is available at the Peninsula library.

#### State Sen. Wright to Hold Town Hall

Our state senator, Rod Wright, is holding a town hall on Saturday, Nov. 21, at two locations: the Malone Student Center at Loyola Marymount University from 9-11 a.m. and at the Lawndale Library Community Room from 1-3 p.m.

Wright is joining with Assemblyman Steve Bradford in "a discussion about legislation, the state budget, health care and new technology or any other concerns you might have."

For more information, call (310) 412-0393.

#### Capitalism

##### A Poem by Darren Glen Attebery

(Nephew of club corresponding secretary Sheila Papayans)

In our modern world  
So much has been unfurled  
That no longer is the U.S.A.  
A kind land.

With all this capitalistic haste  
Human compassion no longer has  
a place.  
Like a bunch of ants running around  
What this country was founded on  
Has run aground.

It might just be me,  
But are we still free?  
Is money really the answer?  
With televisions in every room  
There is no time to groom  
Decent people anymore.

It is not a matter of chance  
That school children are now  
seeking vengeance.  
We only need to ask the parents  
Who are not in attendance.

We have brought on our own  
sentence  
And what lies ahead  
Can only get worse.  
Capitalistic gain?  
What a curse!

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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

### PVPDC Officers for 2009 Contact Info

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pvedem@yahoo.com

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310 373-3066

2nd VP: Barbara Dye  
310 832-2564

Recording Secretary:  
Mary Meade - 310 377-6108

Corresponding Secretary:  
Sheila Papayans  
310 373-7978

Treasurer: Jerry Parker  
310 377-7833

Membership Chair: Lynn McLeod  
310 375-2103

Phone Tree Chair: Judy Pang  
310 375-5783

Newsletter Editor: Ruth McGrew  
310 375-3407

*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)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Select One: Individual: \$ 20.00/Year ( ) \* Family Membership \$30.00/Year ( )**

**Young Adult \$10.00/Year ( )**

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal  New Member

**I might be interested in helping in the following areas:**

Hospitality  Newsletter  Membership  Refreshments  Publicity

Correspondence  Voter Registration  Campaign Work  Website

I might offer my home for a meeting or social event  Phone Tree