

-THE VOORHIS VOICE

December 2019

www.claremontdems.org



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS

Fridays, 11:30-1:00 pm
Issues Luncheon
Village Grill, Claremont
Get informed – and inform

Sunday, December 1 – DCC Holiday Party, 4pm at Napier Center

During the month of December, the DCC has **no** scheduled meetings other than the holiday party on December 1.

The **lunch** meetings with speaker will resume on the 2nd Friday of January, i.e. **January 10, 2020 (11:45)**

The **members' meeting** will resume on the last Monday of January, i.e. **January 27, 2020 (7pm)**

OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, December 19 –Sixth Democratic Presidential Primary Debate

It will be held in **Los Angeles** at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, hosted by PBS NewsHour and Politico; as of now six candidates have qualified: Biden, Buttigieg, Harris, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren

Monday, December 2. 7-8:45 pm. Indivisible Claremont/Inland Valley

Monday, December 2, 7-8:45 pm, Indivisible Claremont/Inland Valley General Meeting, Louise Roberts Room, UCC. State Senator, Anthony Portantino, will be the guest speaker.

Swing Left letter writing to swing districts will be held on December 7 (Claremont), December 14 (Upland), and December 21 (Upland).



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS

From the Editor:

We here finish another year of the Voorhis Voice (The Progressive Voice of the Pomona Valley). I don't want to talk about all the activities and accomplishments of the Democratic Club of Claremont during 2019. Rather it is important to mention some unfinished business on the national scene.

First, there is impeachment –forthcoming in a week or so - and the very high likelihood of a Senate trial (probably in January). Secondly, there is the primary campaign for the Democratic nominee for President – the first primary (actually a caucus) will be early in February; there is a December debate scheduled and probably one in January. At the state level, California remains locked in many battles with President Trump. Finally, here in town, we are still sorting through the effects of the very unfortunate loss of CR.

In short, 2020 will be a very important year for the country (in fact the world) and for this club. I urge you all to spend more time, effort and money in working with the DCC to protect and promote democracy in the country, the state and our community.

Email Contact: on the subject line write EDITOR VV and address the message to m36ring@gmail.com

Members: Check your contact information

Murray Monroe, V-P Membership

While Don Martens and I have been making phone calls to DCC members, inviting them to our Annual Holiday Party (December 1), we have noted that there are many contact numbers that are not active. Please advise me at wedge28@icloud.com of changes or updates to your contact information.

DCC Endorsement for Superior Court Judge

At the club meeting on November 25, we unanimously endorsed **Myanna Dellinger** for Superior Court Judge, Seat 72, in the coming election.

At the club meeting on November 25, we unanimously endorsed **Myanna Dellinger** for Superior Court Judge, Seat 72, in the coming election.

She (and so far only she) had asked the club for the endorsement. She was not able to attend the November Executive Board meeting, but was represented by her husband David. We had read her vitae and interviewed him about her background (an immigrant), accomplishments (top of her law school class, a professor of law, a good number of publications in legal journals, currently working as a temporary Superior Court judge), her interests (environmental law, immigration) as well as miscellaneous matters about running for and being a judge. It was noted in her favor that the Superior Court needs more women judges and that her legal experience had not been as a prosecutor. As a result of the interview, the Executive Board recommended (unanimously) to the DCC that it endorse her.

California Democratic Party Platform 2020

The CDP has adopted its platform for the coming year/election. As usual with platforms, there is a great number of words. But they are organized into sections/topics. At the very least all members of the club should browse through the platform to see what your party has committed itself to.

<https://www.cadem.org/our-party/Final-CDP-Platform-2020-11.16.2019.pdf>

Club Speakers and Topics in 2019

Recently I was talking to a woman who was new to the area and the club about our speakers. She was used to a Democratic organization whose meetings focused only on how to get Democrats elected. She was surprised at the various topics we schedule speakers to discuss at our meetings. I had to tell her that, both historically and currently, the DCC emphasized education on issues relevant to getting Democrats elected. We believe in an informed electorate, in having knowledgeable members.

We try at the end of the year to remind our members, the readers of the *Voorhis Voice*, who our speakers have been the past year and what topics they spoke on. In the interests of time and space, I have not included the credentials for the speakers listed.

That list is below. In the interests of time and space, I have not included the credentials for the speakers.

Note: Chris Naticchia, our Vice-President for Programs, does the scheduling, a time-consuming task. Note: due to Carolee Monroe's willingness to take notes, we also include in the *Voorhis Voice*, for those who were unable to attend or who wish to be reminded of what occurred, a summary of what the speakers' said.

January 2019 Lunch: Laura Shultz, "Labor Partnering with the Community"

January Members' Meeting: Karen May (and friends), "Resistance and The Blue Wave"

February Lunch: Robert Blackey, "The Idea of American Exceptionalism"

February Members': Sienna Ross and Shayok Chakraborty, "The Role of Youth in the Progressive Movement Today"

March Lunch: Christine Gatson-Michalak, "Identifying Your Personal Stake in Collective Liberation"

March Members': Louie Duran "Why CARA?" (California Alliance of Retired

March Lunch: Christine Gatson-Michaelis, "Identifying Your Personal Stake in Collective Liberation"
March Members': Louie Duran, "Why CARA?" (California Alliance of Retired Americans)
April Lunch: Alma Trejo, "Environmental Justice"
April Members': Jeannette Ellis-Royston, "Institutional Racism"
May Lunch: Ed Reece, "The Politics of Small Business"
May Members': Bob Nelson, "The Fight for the Soul of the Democratic Party"
June Lunch: Michelle Evans and Cherie Rabideau, "Life and Love for a Transgender Person"
June Members': John Forney and Jim Rhoads, "The Opioid Crisis"
September Lunch: LaKeisha Rivers, "The Student Debt Crisis"
September Members': Angela Su, "School Funding and the Impact of Charter Schools"
October Lunch: Dan Segal, "Tales from Palestine and the Plausible Path to a Just Peace"
October Members': Eve Kaufman and Carl Bell, "Claremont and Affordable Housing"
November Lunch: Richard Bunce, "Restorative Practice"
November Members': Roberto De La Cruz, "The Latino Vote: History and the 2020 Election"

Talks at DCC November Meetings

Notes taken by Carolee Monroe

Friday, November 8, Luncheon

Richard Bunce, a convener of the Restorative Practices Collaborative, began his talk, "Restorative Practices: An Ancient yet Innovative Pathway to Peace", by summarizing a recently held workshop in Pomona. As Pomona has chosen to become a chartered "Compassionate City", the workshop provided a setting for discussion and for follow-up concerning the issues needing to be faced.

The day began with two speakers telling of painful events in each of their lives and of their insights from and integration of the experiences. Then breakout groups were held to discuss the many problems that Pomona faces, including housing and homelessness, crime, guns, unemployment, drug use and addiction.

Bunce, using published content from the International Institute for Restorative Practices, described restorative practices as a social science that studies how to build social capital and achieve social discipline through participatory learning and decision making. Through their use, a community can produce: reduced crime, violence and bullying; improved human behavior; a strengthened civil society; effective leadership; restored relationships and repaired harm. The difference between restorative practice and restorative justice is that the former is proactive while the latter is reactive.

The leaders in Pomona have begun to implement this system that they see as a more humane criminal justice system. Bunce said that early practitioners included aboriginals and tribes, who used it to reintegrate individuals who had broken the norms. Structured meetings included the victim, the perpetrator and other stakeholders. The crucial outcome was the agreed decision on what needed to happen so as to make things right

had broken the norms. Structured meetings included the victim, the perpetrator and other stakeholders. The crucial outcome was the agreed decision on what needed to happen so as to make things right.

Research and studies are documenting that restorative practices and restorative justice are effective. Restorative practices, with its emphasis on prevention, gives the community and school a means to address the “cracking in the fabric”, Bunce said.

Monday, November 25, Members' Meeting

Roberto De La Cruz embedded more than a half-century of Latino labor history in his personal story of 54 years of activism. He credited his role models and mentors, his mother Jessie, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Fred Roth, all of whom provided guidance throughout his life. His presentation, “The Latino Vote: Lessons Learned from History and the 2020 Election”, depicted the struggles of minority workers, especially of Latin heritage, to unite and unionize in the effort to secure better wages and working conditions.

In earlier years De La Cruz was part of the farmworkers organizing structure. He now works with SEIU efforts to organize caregivers in the Stockton area. Within ten years as our population ages, he said, the number of caregivers needed will double. Currently these workers lack defined working conditions and a living wage; as did farmworkers before unionizing. Both groups, farmworkers and caregivers, were intentionally excluded from the 1936 National Labor Relations Act.

Justifiably proud of three generations of his family being part of labor organizing, De La Cruz shared stories of his being arrested many times and with family members. He told of the impact of his mother’s deportation, who was a United States citizen, during “Operation Wetback”, in 1954. The grape boycotts, the passage of California Proposition 187 and the current rise of white nationalism have provided motivation for De La Cruz to continue in his work.

Throughout the efforts to improve working conditions, De La Cruz said lessons had been learned and implemented. One was simply that of phrasing: “amnesty” implies a need for forgiveness while “undocumented” is used in place of “illegal aliens”. Another was the recognition of the need to affiliate with the seven coalitions or “Patitas”: Labor; Faith-based; Community based service organizations; Academia; Sending countries consulates and Mexican state organizations; Ethnic businesses (Latino owned and those who rely on Latino consumers); and Ethnic media. Lastly, De La Cruz focused on an immigrant’s “Pipeline to Power” that begins with legal permanent residency, through citizenship and registering to vote to being informed, educated and engaged in the process. The Democratic Party, he said, must put resources into actively engaging the 50,000 Latino youth who turn 18 every month.





Essays Etc. by Club Members **Great California Progressives #9**

The Democratic Club of Claremont is in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. We California Progressives have a long tradition of producing some of the great figures in American political thought and action. These essays are dedicated to ensuring that we current members of the club and the party know our ancestors.

These pieces are of course very brief. I encourage readers to seek out and read more about the people whose life and work is summarized here.

Last year, upon assuming the post of VV editor I began the series. The people covered so far have been Carey McWilliams, Jerry Voorhis, Hiram Johnson, Dr. Seuss, Harvey Milk, Upton Sinclair, Earl Warren and Harry Bridges.

Jackie Robinson (1919-1972)

Merrill Ring

Why is a baseball player included in the Great California Progressives?

Actually, Robinson was a great all-around athlete – and he is a Californian, born and raised in Pasadena, starring at UCLA. And he does deserve to be in this state’s Progressive Hall of Fame.

He broke the color barrier in baseball.

Back in 1947 when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, baseball was the Great American Pastime. No other professional sport came anywhere near the importance of baseball in American life. Since the late 19th century there was an unwritten rule that there were to be no colored players in baseball. Not only were there no blacks – the present diverse ethnic backgrounds of professional baseball players was not even dreamed of then: it was a hugely popular white man’s sport. Baseball’s status made it the symbol of white supremacy.

To integrate baseball was a major step on the way toward a racially integrated America – and Jackie Robinson was the one who took that step.

It is not right to say that he “took that step”. It was a possibility offered to him by Branch Rickey, the general manager (and part owner) of the Dodgers.

Rickey, for several reasons had looked for “the right man”. He found that Robinson was the one: the one who not only had the talent to play major league baseball, but the character to restrain himself from responding to the massive inevitable treatment that he would receive. Rickey required Robinson to promise that he would keep his mouth shut, keep his temper in the face of loud resistance from players (team-mates and others), from those employed in

to promise that he would keep his mouth shut, keep his temper in the face of loud resistance from players (team-mates and others), from those employed in all the capacities connected to a professional team (officials, ball-boys, hotel workers, taxi drivers, sports writers, etc. etc.) and of course from baseball fans in and out of the stadiums where he would be playing.

It is a stretch to compare what Robinson endured with the crowd crossing the bridge in Selma, but it is important to see that is some likeness there.

Robinson kept his promise, bearing the slings and arrows in silence. For he knew that his silence was providing the opportunity for other blacks to follow him into the upper reaches of baseball. Whether he had any idea that integrating baseball was an important piece, an important symbol, of integrating American society I have no idea.

At some time, he had succeeded in baseball – and Rickey allowed him to stop being a quiet hero. Robinson, having become an American good guy, spent the rest of his life advocating and acting for the advancement of blacks in America. His particular political choices were not always progressive (he campaigned for Richard Nixon!) However, his life gives him a significant place in the Progressive Hall of Fame.



Letters from Club Members

Bob Gerecke, "Vote Yes on CR", submitted to the Daily Bulletin

On Tuesday, Claremont residents will vote on a proposed 3/4 percent sales tax increase.

The additional tax on a \$50 tab will be 38 cents. If you can afford the \$50, you won't even notice the 38 cents. It won't keep anyone from patronizing Claremont's unique businesses. But it will maintain our services despite rising costs. Look at reward vs. risk. The reward for passing the sales tax is substantial. The cost to us and the risk of losing customers are negligible. That makes it a good investment.

If you're angry at our City government, or if you think our employees are overpaid, don't punish yourself. If you kill the sales tax, you'll be cutting benefits to yourself, because we'll have fewer and less experienced employees, older and less reliable equipment, and fewer and worse public services.

Only YES on Measure CR makes any sense.

Bob Gerecke "Contracting with the Sheriff" submitted to the Claremont Courier

Only YES on measure CR makes any sense.

Bob Gerecke, "Contracting with the Sheriff", submitted to the Claremont Courier
Some Claremont residents want us to contract with the L.A. County Sheriff to presumably reduce our public safety costs. Unfortunately for their proposal, a few days ago it was news that Sheriff's deputies are harassing and threatening the family members of individuals whom they have shot. That's in addition to the long-known news that Sheriff's deputies have formed tattooed gangs, whose members cover up one another's crimes and threaten honest deputies who might report them. It's also in addition to the repeated news that the current Sheriff re-hires deputies who have been fired for legitimate reasons.

I'm reminded of an episode on one of comedian Jack Benny's radio programs many decades ago. A thug walks up behind Jack, presses the barrel of a handgun against his back, and says "Your money or our life!" Jack says nothing. The thug repeats his demand more loudly. Jack, who was generous in real life but played a skinflint on his program, says, "I'm thinking; I'm thinking". Well, I'm thinking that our safety is worth more than money. I'll take a clean police department any day.



Now YOU write!

Do so! Of course, newspapers have so many restrictions (especially space) that very worth while letter do not get published. But try! And if it doesn't get published there, sent it to the VV and it most likely will be published here. (Or if it does get published, send it here also and have it published.)



Or call . . . & Complain (or Praise)

MEMBERSHIP: JOIN THE DCC or RENEW

We have no corporate sponsors. Your membership dues pay all DCC's expenses which include our meeting expenses, P.O box, club charter, storage space for our booths, publicity, political donations, support for the CHS Young Democrats, and events such as Claremont's July 4th celebration and Village Venture,. Take this opportunity to renew if you haven't already done so. *Just*

Democrats, and events such as Claremont's July 4th celebration and Village Venture,. Take this opportunity to renew if you haven't already done so. *Just complete and mail this form.*

Mail this form with your check to: Democratic Club of Claremont, P.O. Box 1201, Claremont, CA 91711

Individual \$30 Family \$40 Contributing \$50-99 Patron \$100-249
 Lifetime \$250 Student/Limited Income \$5

Date _____

Name _____

Street Address or P.O. Box _____

City, State and Zip _____

Telephone(s) _____ Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

The *Voorhis Voice* is published by the Democratic Club of Claremont, PO Box 1201, Claremont CA 91711. The newsletter's name commemorates the late Jerry Voorhis, a talented and courageous Congress member from Claremont.

Newsletter Editor: Merrill Ring
m36ring@gmail.com

