

-THE VOORHIS VOICE  
OCTOBER 2019

[www.claremontdems.org](http://www.claremontdems.org)

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS**

Fridays, 11:30-1:00 pm

**Issues Luncheon**

Village Grill, Claremont

Get informed – and inform

Friday, October 11

**Monthly DCC luncheon**

The speaker for the meeting is **Dan Segal**, Pitzer College Professor of Anthropology and History, whose title will be “Tales from Palestine and the Plausible Path to a Just Peace”. His talk is part of the Gar Byrum Distinguished Speaker Series.

The luncheon will begin at 11:45 AM at Eddie’s Italian Eatery, in the Stater Bros shopping center. The program will begin at 11:45 PM. The cost of the family style meal is \$17 and includes beverage, tax and tip. The program is free. Both luncheon and program are open to the public.

Saturday, October 19, 9:30am

**Executive Board Meeting**

Monday, October 28

**DCC Monthly Members’ Meeting**

Napier Center, Pilgrim Place

The speaker will be **Roberto De La Cruz** of HEW SEH GUPLA and the

## DCC Monthly Members' Meeting

Napier Center, Pilgrim Place

The speaker will be **Roberto De La Cruz**, of UFW, SEIU, CHIRLA, and the Latino Roundtable. The meeting will begin at 7 pm in the Napier Center. The talk is free and open to the public. A club members' business meeting (beginning about 8:15) will follow the speaker.

## OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### **October 10, Thursday: Democratic Candidates Town Hall on LGBTQ issues: "Power of Our Pride"**

When: 4-8:30pm

Where: Los Angeles

Hosts: CNN and Human Rights Campaign [note: CNN TV]

Who: Steyer, Booker, Biden, Harris, Warren, Buttigieg, O'Rourke, Klobuchar, Castro (note: accepted invitations; Sanders and Yang had conflicts; Gabbard?)

See the details at <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/18/politics/cnn-lgbtq-town-hall/index.html>

### **October 15, Tuesday: FOURTH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY DEBATE**

When: 5pm PT

Where: Otterbein University, Westerville, OH

Hosts: CNN and NYT [TV will be CNN]

Qualified: Biden, Booker, Buttigieg, Castro, Gabbard, Harris, Klobuchar, O'Rourke, Sanders, Steyer, Warren, Yang (note: 12 on stage)

**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M., Community Screening and Discussion of "Backpack Full of Cash"** (a film narrated by Matt Damon that explores the real cost of privatizing America's public schools). Indian Hill Village, 1460 E. Holt Ave, Pomona. Entrance #4 Doors open at 6:00 P.M., screening begins at 6:30. Sponsored by NAACP Pomona, Pomona Unified School District, Latina and Latino RoundTable of San Gabriel Valley. Free

**Mon, October 7<sup>th</sup>, Indivisible Claremont/Inland Valley General Meeting.** 7 pm, Louise Roberts Room, Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 Harrison Ave, Claremont. Claremont-Pomona Locally Grown Power (CPLGP) Executive Director Devon Hartman will give a presentation on the non-profit's plan to build a solar panel factory in Pomona. In addition, Marsha Tudor will bring packets we can use to write postcards to potential voters in Kentucky to help in the DITCH MITCH election next November.

□

**Saturday, Oct 12: Newcomers Access Center Volunteers Appreciation Lunch** 1-3pm 401 N Gibbs, Pomona (Holt one block east of Garey, free parking in rear or on street). Donations accepted in person, by mail or online at [www.newcomersaccesscenter.org/home/donate](http://www.newcomersaccesscenter.org/home/donate)

**Saturday, Oct 12: Indigenous Peoples Day** 2-5pm Memorial Park, Claremont. Native American Dance Groups. Sponsored by Pomona College, The Claremont Colleges, Claremont Heritage

**Sunday, Oct 13: Chris Hedges, “America: The Farewell Tour” 7pm**

Claremont United Church of Christ. Tickets at door, participating churches or <http://bit.ly/CHedges>. Sponsored by Agenda for a Prophetic Faith

**Thursday, Oct 24: United Nations Day Celebration;** theme “Our Planet. Our Future”. Vegetarian dinner, entertainment and keynote address by Alexander Hall. Dinner Fee: \$25. 6pm Edmunds Ballroom, Pomona College

**(Selected) Political Lectures at the Colleges**

Tuesday, Oct 8 – Reyna Grande, best-selling Mexican author who crossed the border undocumented “Beyond Borders: Immigration, Trauma, and the American Dream”

Tuesday, Oct 15 – John Taylor, Professor Economics, Stanford: “Strong Economy/Weak Outlook: The Paradox of Today’s Economy”

Thursday, Oct 24 – Vivek Maru: “The Global Struggle for Environmental Justice”

Wednesday, Oct 30 – Michael Shear, NYT White House correspondent: “Border Wars: Inside Trump’s Assault on Immigration”

All at the Athenaeum, 6:45pm

**Swing Left Inland Valley Events**

**Arizona Canvass**

Are you ready to sign up for Arizona Weekend of Action October 26/27? We will coordinate carpooling and shared housing (with shared cost). Here’s the sign-up link:

<https://swingleft.org/p/october2019-phoenix-WOA>

After you sign up you will get information on carpooling and housing.

**Postcard/Letter Writing to voters in other states**

Here are the links to register:

October 3, 2019

[https://actionnetwork.org/events/10319-thursday-janes-house?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/events/10319-thursday-janes-house?source=direct_link&)

October 5, 2019

[https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-5-19-jill?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-5-19-jill?source=direct_link&)

October 12, 2019

[https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-12-19-dianne?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-12-19-dianne?source=direct_link&)

October 19, 2019

[https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-19-19-jennifer?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-19-19-jennifer?source=direct_link&)

October 26, 2019

[https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-26-19-kathleen?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/events/10-26-19-kathleen?source=direct_link&)

**Chino Hills Canvass – Gil Cisneros**

Saturday October 19, 2019 9:30 a.m. Chino Hills

Jill Benton and her crew from Swing Left Inland Valley helped get Gil elected and take back the seat from an R. But his seat needs defending because the GOP is coming at him with a steamroller. What can you do? Knock doors to defend Rep. Gil Cisneros’ seat in the House. We will partner with Chino Hills groups (Progressive 39th and Fair 39), meet Representative Cisneros, receive training, canvass in teams, and debrief over lunch. Please RSVP to receive more information: [fair39forcongress@gmail.com](mailto:fair39forcongress@gmail.com)

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## DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS

From the Editor:

Trump's using the office of the Presidency for personal political gain and the consequent move to impeach him have thrown the issues of the 2020 election into the background (for a while.) We no longer know whether Trump will be the Republican nominee or not – his failure to respect the Constitution and his increasingly erratic behavior may well cause the Republicans to dump him (ask for his resignation).

We Democrats have something to consider: should the House, in its impeachment proceedings, have only one charge to be made against him, namely his attempt to coerce Ukraine into creating political dirt on Joe Biden and son and the events connected to that (withholding authorized military aid was a lever, storing political information on a national security server) or should the House Democrats add charges having to do with all the other impeachable offenses that he has committed? The first option has the virtue of clarity and simplicity – the second has to do with a full accounting of what Trump has wrought upon this country. We need to form an opinion as to which road to take: and urge our representative to take it.

Email Contact: on the subject line write EDITOR VV and address the message to [m36ring@gmail.com](mailto:m36ring@gmail.com)

### **President's Message**

Sam Pedroza, DCC's President, will not be submitting a column this month – not because he is being impeached but because he has been too busy to sit and write.

**Claremont High School Young Democrats Club**  
Carolee Monroe

A request: The Young Democrats Club at Claremont High has set an agenda of topics for this school year. They are asking for more information about gun

A request: The Young Democrats Club at Claremont High has set an agenda of topics for this school year. They are asking for more information about gun control and “March for Our Lives”. The tentative schedule is to present these topics during the month of December. If you are knowledgeable about these topics and wish to talk to the students, or if you know someone who can speak, please contact Carolee Monroe 909 626 8122 or [jackncarolee@verizon.net](mailto:jackncarolee@verizon.net)

## **Village Venture 2019**

Our Democratic Club of Claremont will again be part of the 2019 Village Venture Arts and Crafts Faire. The event, on Saturday, October 26, from 9 AM until 5 PM, promises over 400 vendors and 16,000 visitors. Volunteers are needed to staff our booth. With a seasonal theme and a focus on Halloween, costumes are desired but not necessary.

The DCC will continue its presence, maintaining a booth at the event, as part of our outreach. The focus this year will be on the Democratic presidential candidates. We will provide information about individual candidates as available to us. All of the then-current Democratic candidates will be on a Straw Poll ballot. Votes will be tallied and recorded hourly, beginning at 10 AM and ending at 5 PM. The final results will be compared with those from our July 4th booth. Of course, potential voter pools differ as those voting on July 4th were mostly local Claremont residents while Village Venture attendees come from a wider area.

Besides candidate information and the straw poll, our booth will have other relevant information, the details of which are not yet fully determined (for instance, impeachment material.)

Also connected to our booth, will be representation from Inclusive Claremont, a “Pro-Housing Coalition”, continuing its efforts to engage the community on the housing issue as it pertains to Claremont. Register to Vote forms will also be available, as will DCC membership forms.

Please contact Carolee Monroe (909) 626-8122 or [jackncarolee@verizon.net](mailto:jackncarolee@verizon.net) to volunteer to work in the booth (with or without costume).

## **Talks at DCC September Meetings**

### *Friday, September 13 Luncheon*

**LaKeisha Rivers**, Director of Financial Aid at Cal State University San Bernardino, presented some startling facts as she spoke on “The Student Debt Crisis” at our September luncheon. Most importantly, American student borrowers currently owe \$1.6 trillion. That is, according to Andy Winnick, more than current total American credit card debt. The average amount owed is \$40,000. The current federal interest rate costs students an additional 4.35%. However, the rate is adjusted annually. When a student maxes out of borrowing from federal sources and uses private funding, the interest rate is similar to that of credit cards; anywhere from 10 to 24 per cent. It is usual for monthly repayments to be over \$1000!

similar to that of credit cards; anywhere from 10 to 24 per cent. It is usual for monthly repayments to be over \$1000!

While, in California, grants and scholarships are available, students need assistance in accessing them. First generation college students, especially, need guidance in all necessities. Ms. Rivers said that CSUSB has “Wellness Coordinators” who provide finance literacy and computer simulated programs so that students practice before borrowing. The staff works year-round providing workshops at high schools as well as on campus. Even with help, there are many students who are “food insecure”, so much so that all CSU campuses have on-site food pantries. Better news is that current CSUSB graduates have an average of \$16,000 or less of debt.

The US Department of Education requires exit counseling for student borrowers. After inputting their ideal job, the earnings for it are shown and students become aware of the long-range payments.

The crisis is personally and nationally alarming as students and graduates delay marrying, child-bearing and purchasing homes. Some families find two generations paying college loans.

While the Obama Administration promoted a program of debt forgiveness when a graduate worked in public service or for an NGO for 10 years, the Trump Administration has reduced the percentage eligible for having engaged in careers benefiting the public good to less than one per cent.

The discussion included: restructuring of student debt; FAFSA; reducing or eliminating the interest charge; fund use; the current DoEd administration; the poverty of some students; private colleges’ attempts to diversify such that costs are less than public colleges.

#### *Monday, September 30 Members’ Meeting*

**Angela Su**, School Finance Specialist at the California Teachers Association’s Center for Organizing and Bargaining, presented a fact-filled program, “School Funding and the Impact of Charter Schools,” in California. Su began with a video, “Strong Schools 2019,” that can be seen at <https://youtu.be/RGWvIFttH1I>. The video gives an historical perspective of the effects that various propositions have had on money available to California schools through the past 50 years. Although laws have been passed to restore funds for schools since Proposition 13, California remains below the national average for per pupil funding. The video supports consideration of change of funding.

Su then focused on charter schools in California, beginning with the intent as proposed in a 1992 act. Originally conceived as 100 schools that would foster research and be development labs, charters now number over 1,300 in the state. Many of the protections of the California Ed. Code were waived for charters. Evolving issues that have negatively impacted traditional public schools were listed. Su brought the topic to the local level when she discussed impact that a charter school with 300 students would have on Claremont schools. She ended her talk by discussing two bills, AB 1505 and AB 1507, currently on the governor’s desk waiting to be signed. Together these bills will constrain some of the negative consequences of charter schools. A copy of her Power Point can be found at: <https://app.box.com/s/bhxbev vx39femrvnykfpqwsleet465p1>.



## Essays Etc. by Club Members

### Great California Progressives #7

*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.*

*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, and Upton Sinclair.*

### **Earl Warren (1891-1974)**

Earl Warren is a major person in twentieth century American political history.

That is because he was head of the Supreme Court during perhaps its most progressively creative years – he was Chief Justice from 1953 to 1969, a sixteen year period when the court became the center of American liberalism, a development for which Warren is hated and reviled by conservatives.

Warren was a California boy, born in Bakersfield - not then or now a hotbed of progressivism.

True to his background, he did not start his political ascent as a progressive: he was a solid conservative (Republican) for years and years, even when he was appointed to the Court by President Eisenhower who, along with the entire conservative camp, thought that in Warren they were going to continue the very conservative bent of SCOTUS. (In fact, Eisenhower later said of his appointment of Warren that it was the “biggest damn fool mistake” of his presidency.)

Warren moved up the political ladder, going from a county District Attorney to

Warren moved up the political ladder, going from a county District Attorney to California Attorney General to Governor (he was elected Governor three times: 1942, 1946 and 1950). (As Governor, he has made a previous appearance in these accounts of Great California Progressives, namely in connection with Carey McWilliams. When Warren was running in 1942, he declared that, if elected, his very first act would be to fire McWilliams, a progressive thorn in the side of California conservatism.) He was chosen to be Thomas Dewey's running mate in the 1948 election (they, of course, lost to Harry Truman.)

Because of his impeccable conservative credentials, Eisenhower appointed him to the court before his third term as governor was finished.

Some of the major accomplishments of his court must be briefly cited:

SCOTUS under Warren ended the 'separate but equal' principle in *Brown v Board of Education*; it created the principle of 'one man, one vote'; the Warren court required that the state must provide defense attorneys for those unable to pay; it established the right to privacy in *Griswold v Connecticut*, a case and a right which led directly to *Roe v Wade*; the Miranda rule which requires police to tell suspects their constitutional rights before questioning was a creation of Warren's court. Those major decisions and the principles embedded in them are landmarks in progressive politics.

What happened to Warren that he failed to be the conservative champion that his past led Eisenhower and Nixon and fellow conservatives to expect?

Notice that none of the Warren court's huge accomplishments were in the area of the economy or economic rights. He had always been, and remained while Chief Justice, pro-business. His change in views did not extend as far as a repudiation of his attachment to unregulated capitalism.

Rather, what happened was that Warren came to take seriously a conservative recognition of the political rights of the individual. He became a legal champion of the civil rights of individual people against the power of the state.

And for that we progressives count him as one of us, despite his failure to respond equally to matters of economic power.

To illustrate his personal development in matters of civil rights, it is important to realize that as Attorney General and Governor of California he was a major supporter of the incarceration of Japanese-Americans in concentration camps during WWII. Later in life, he came to see that action was a violation of their civil rights and so realized that the policy had been a mistake, the result of hysteria not of clear judgment.

### **Book Review**

*The Man Who Sold America*, by Joy-Ann Reid. (June 2019 (William Morrow).)

By Holly Kurtz

Much has been written about Donald Trump, the person and his presidency.

Maybe too much. Reid, who is a political analyst for MSNBC, does an excellent job of pulling together diverse elements on that topic into a reasoned whole.

There are no surprises in the book, but Reid provides a complete summary of the issues. The book is well organized, including chapters about the Trump

There are no surprises in the book, but Reid provides a complete summary of the issues. The book is well organized, including chapters about how Trump happened, two nations under Trump, the Republican Party, American strongmen, and the media. Her conclusions are backed up with facts, quotes and figures – not hyperbole.

One chapter that does introduce new material is a discussion of what America can learn from South Africa. Reid and her husband visited that nation in 2018; her father had spent much of his adult life working there. She draws distinctions between attempts at racial reconciliation in South Africa and appeals to racial fear in the U.S.

Reid provides a thorough discussions about plutocrats and populists, about income inequality, about rank-and-file GOP legislators lining up behind Trump even if they express disdain for him in private. She places all of these points in the context of modern political history.

Reid’s writing style and vivid characters keep the reader moving along, although there are a few parts where she gets carried away such as a “rumped Rasputin peddling crypto-fascist diktats” – referring to Steve Bannon.

Looking to 2020, Reid sees many obstacles for Democrats and asks, “After Trump, who are we?”



### Letters from Club Members

(After a wealth of letters from club members last month, none have been submitted for this issue of the Voorhis Voice. I doubt that that is a consequence of mental collapse – rather it is simply a matter of timing. Wait until next month.)





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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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**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.**

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