

# -THE VOORHIS VOICE

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**JANUARY 2020**

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

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## **DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS**

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

**The DCC's monthly luncheons** will resume on **Friday January 10**. The speaker for the day will be **Sarah Jakle**, Outreach Director of Field Team 6, talking about "Voter Registration: why somethings so simple is the key to a future progressive nation and how you can make that happen". Jakle has an extensive background in community services and political activism. Field Team 6 is made up of chapters across the United States, with each chapter ranked by the number of Democratic voters it has registered. The event will be (as usual) at Eddie's Italian Eatery in the Stater Bros. shopping center. It begins at 11:45 AM (the meal is served promptly at noon.). The cost of the family style meal is \$17 and includes non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip. The program featuring Jakle begins at 12:45 PM and is free. Both luncheon and program are open to the public.

The **January monthly members' meeting** will be on **Monday January 27** at 7pm at (as usual) the Napier Center on the Pilgrim Place campus. The program for the evening will feature **Jenni Chang and Luis Duran**, organizers for CARA, the California Alliance for Retired Americans, Their topic: **"The**

**Schools and Communities First Initiative — Reforming Prop 13.** There will be a brief business meeting for members following the program.

### **OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Tuesday, January 14– Seventh Democratic Presidential Primary Debate**

It will be held in Des Moines, Iowa at Drake University. The hosts are CNN and The Des Moines Register. Many details are not yet known. As of now only five candidates have qualified under the more stringent rules: Biden, Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Sanders, Warren. Watch for further developments.

Note: If a conflict arises between this event and the Senate trial of President Trump, the debate will be rescheduled.

Note: The first primary will be the Iowa caucus on February 3, less than three weeks following this debate (which is being held in the state where the action will be).

**Sunday, January 5:** Next planning meeting for CA31 Action Council - 1pm, location pending confirmation, likely at the Steelworkers hall in Fontana. On the agenda: inviting more organizations to participate, decisions on governance, final name & logo, and a proactive agenda going into the HQ planning meeting on Jan 12.

**Saturday, January 11:** Community Meeting to Stop Amazon Warehouse - - this proposed plan to develop an Amazon warehouse at Central & Foothill (adjacent to Cable Airport) will affect all of us! 11am-1pm. Location provided upon RSVP: RSVP to [www.NoAmazonWarehouseUpland.com](http://www.NoAmazonWarehouseUpland.com) or call/text to 909-285-4919.

**Saturday, January 11:** Carla Johnson is hosting, in conjunction with Swing Left, a write-athon, writing voter registration letters, starting at 10 am. Please bring first class postage and envelopes.. Starting at noon we will be writing postcards to voters with Tony the Democrat. We will also be writing our elected officials. Please bring postcard stamps for the postcard events. The event is drop-in ending at 8pm. Come stay for half a hour or all day. 421 W7th St, Claremont.

**Sunday, January 12:** Official meeting with CADEM (CA state Dem Party) to plan activities and the grand opening of the new Democratic Headquarters in our area! State Field Director and SBC Central Committee officers will be at this meeting, along with Karen May who is the newly hired staff for the HQ. State party staff have requested that every Dem-leaning organization in the vicinity (think I-57 to west and I-215 to the east) send ONE or TWO reps to this meeting.

It will probably be at the new HQ location in the Foothill Marketplace complex,

[12449 Foothill Boulevard, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, United States](http://12449.FoothillBoulevard.RanchoCucamonga.CA.UnitedStates) The space is right near the "Living Spaces" store..

**Wednesday, January 15:** Three Valleys Water District meeting in Claremont.

and will be the next opportunity to voice our opposition to our local water district supporting the corporate-Cadiz-funded biased "study" that aims to extract water from under the Mojave desert by Joshua Tree. The meeting is at 8 am at 1021 E. Miramar Ave., Claremont, CA 91711-2052. Contact Karen May 909-200-5521 to let her know you will attend and to be given information.

**Saturday, February 1: Grand opening of the new Democratic Headquarters in our area!** Details coming soon. The HQ location is at the eastern edge of Rancho Cucamonga on Foothill Blvd just past I-15. This will be a fun event including a short program with our Democratic candidates and elected officials firing folks up for the Blue Wave, training in voter engagement skills, and action opportunities!

**March 27 Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley,**

Our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast will take place on March 27, 2020 at the Sheraton Fairplex in Pomona, CA. We hope to see you all there. For further information contact Lina Mira, Director, at [Lmira@latinolatinaroundtable.org](mailto:Lmira@latinolatinaroundtable.org)



**DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS**

**From the Editor:**

Democrats: 2020 has arrived. That means a major election in November, a Presidential election, with important state, county, city races on the ballot along with the usual number of important propositions. Of course, even before November, there will be the California primary election (early this time around, March 3, only 2 months from now.)

You know all that. And you have all made New Year's resolutions to be exceptionally active throughout the entire year – keeping informed, working with the Democratic Club of Claremont, going to meetings of the club and associated organizations, hitting the streets.

Given that this country has the worst President we have ever had and that he is running again and so represents a clear and present danger to this country's (in fact the world's) well-being and given that so many deluded and nihilistic Americans are supporting his destruction of what is best in this country, we must all pledge to do far more than usual to make sure that he, and his supporters, are defeated.

**THIS IS THE YEAR FOR DEMOCRATS TO BE ACTIVISTS**

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

### **From the President**

Sam Pedroza

I am looking forward to the year 2020. Of course, our sights are on electing Democrats to the White House and the Senate. We also have local races as well. The recently defeated CR measure provides us with an indication of the local political leanings. With each election there is something to learn, even with the apathetic voter turnout. The sales tax measure failed by 141 votes, with a measly 35% voter turnout. This is the third local election in a row that was defeated by a now organized group. This organized group is aiming to change the makeup of the council and establish austerity measures in Claremont, including contracting out city services. The new district elections will greatly enhance the opportunity to make the council more conservative. District 1 and 5, representing the most northern and southern portions of the city will have elections in November. Although filing periods open in late April, it is important that we cultivate interest among our active residents that bring Democratic ideals early in the year. It should be a 2020 goal of our club to encourage and strengthen the bandwidth of support and elect the best Democrats for our White House and to our City Hall.

### **An Open Letter to Democratic Club of Claremont Members**

Murray Monroe, VP-Membership

To all who have renewed their memberships for 2020, Thank You!

To all recently joined members, Welcome!

To those who have not renewed yet, 2020 will be a year-long action of campaigns, candidates, issues, propositions, the census, and more. Not only are your dues needed but your volunteering will help lead to success. Please contribute time and money.



### **Essays Etc. by Club Members**

#### **Great California Progressives #9**

*The Great California Progressives essay will not appear this month due to the holidays. It will resume in the February Voorhis Voice.*

**Merrill Ring** has written an analysis of the issues involved in the Democratic debates about health care. It can be read online at <http://taipd.org/node/469>

**Andy Winnick** has written (and delivered at various places in southern California) an examination of Medicare for All. It can be read online at <http://taipd.org/node/468>

**Merrill Ring** in December published a book entitled **Has The Democratic Party Become Socialist?: A Primer on Socialism for the 2020 Election**. It runs just over 100 pages, costs only \$7 for the paperback, 3.99 for the ebook version and is available at Amazon Books. Royalties from the book will be given to the DCC and TAIPD.



### **Letters from Club Members**

By **Chris Naticchia**: the following was printed as a **Viewpoint** piece in the *Claremont Courier* on December 13, 2019

### **Affordable housing is an education issue**

Now that the state has released its new housing unit allocations and assigned Claremont responsibility to zone for over 1600 units – a quarter of them low and very low income – we’re likely to see increased attention from residents to housing affordability.

Clearly, affordable housing is a pressing, humanitarian issue: people who can’t afford housing often sleep in their cars or on the streets. It’s also an issue of intergenerational justice, since the lack of affordable housing unfairly freezes out younger generations from the opportunity to build equity by owning homes. But what may not seem so obvious is this: Affordable housing is an educational issue too – one that hits us locally.

Affordable housing is an education issue not merely because parents who work two jobs to pay the rent or who worry constantly about eviction aren’t able to help their kids with homework as easily as parents who don’t face such obstacles. Unless we make headway on it, our school system as a whole is likely to suffer because a key ingredient of school quality is stable funding, which in California depends on stable enrollment.

But the school district, faced with declining enrollments from Claremont families, has accepted transfer students from other districts rather than face

funding cuts and school closures. Currently, more than 1700 students (26 percent) of our district's enrollment are transfers—the equivalent of nearly two of our seven elementary schools.

But other districts, including those from whom we receive transfers, are experiencing enrollment declines as well, and may decide not to allow students to transfer to maintain funding. In fact, one neighboring district, facing the prospect of closing one or two elementary schools, has cut the flow of transfer students.

While we are compensated for this by increasing transfer students from elsewhere, our total enrollment still dropped last year by 200 students. In short, we can't count on inter-district transfers to make up for declining enrollments from Claremont families.

If birth rates were to rise in Claremont, there might be grounds for optimism. But as a recent report from the Southern California Association of Governments indicates, we're aging as a community. Over the last decade, the number of residents aged 65 and over increased from 6,000 to nearly 6,750, while those aged 5 to 20 declined from 8,900 to 8,000 and those aged 21 to 34 declined by a few hundred. It's not likely we'll make up for declining enrollments with increased birth rates either.

How will we make up for declining enrollments without relying on increased birth rates or inter-district transfers? The answer is to entice more young families, couples and individuals—those who already have or who may soon have school-aged children—to move to Claremont. That, of course, depends crucially on our stock of affordable housing.

The alternative is to wait and hope for birth rates to increase or for other districts to supply us with transfer students. But then we are less masters of our own destiny and more dependent on others.

We also risk school closures, a path we've been down before with repercussions still felt today, over 40 years later: a bruising fight, complete with the sacking of a principal and a board recollection, to keep Sycamore Elementary open (forever memorialized in "The Re-call," a video on YouTube), and the closure of La Puerta Intermediate School, with the decades-long ordeal to find a suitable use for or buyer of that property. While it may not happen this year or next, it could happen within a decade if current trends continue.

If the preceding remarks are reasonably plausible, they invite us to see the issue of affordable housing in Claremont in a new light. It becomes harder to deflect responsibility for addressing the crisis elsewhere, because the impacts now approach our own doorsteps.

The risks of inaction are present. We can't run down the clock. Let's continue to make sure these matters receive the local attention they deserve.

***By Juan Matute: the following letter was published in the Claremont Courier on***

December 20, 2019

I thank the *Claremont Courier* for an opportunity to contribute to a community dialogue for improving our city's feeling of civility.

There is no question that this nation, from coast to coast, and states beyond, are less tolerant of our differences than what many of us grew up with.

Beginning with our city of Claremont, we need to understand and come to grips with the reasons why we are now this way. It will do no good to improve the situation if we just go in head-to-head and debate what our differences are and who is right and who is wrong; that will go nowhere. Instead, we need to settle on a common ground that whatever it is, we need first to all agree that it is not good for us to continue on the path that has slowly brewed from the date that JFK was assassinated. Once we can agree that our present path is harmful to our democracy, to our city, and to the future of our children, we can consider the next step in our discussion.

**Bob Gerecke** submitted the following letter to the *Claremont Courier*.

### **What Happened to Sustainability?**

At the recent Architectural Commission meeting, I voiced support for the rehab of Knight's Inn at Indian Hill and I-10. I didn't look closely enough at the drawings to notice that they showed no solar panels on the roofs. Therefore, I failed to ask, "Where are the solar panels?" My mistake.

Even worse, the commissioners didn't ask, either. What happened to our vaunted focus on sustainability? Perhaps we're being distracted from it by so many other details. I encourage our City Council to:

1. Send a message to all commissioners reminding them to prioritize all aspects of sustainability -- environmental, social and economic -- in their deliberations.
2. Establish a policy that every commission shall have at least one member who is an avowed champion of sustainability in all of its aspects.



*Now YOU write!*

*Do so! Of course, newspapers have so many restrictions (especially space) that very worthwhile letters 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 again.)*



Or call . . . & Complain (or Praise)

**MEMBERSHIP: JOIN THE DCC or RENEW**

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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.*

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

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Individual \$30    Family \$40    Contributing \$50-99    Patron \$100-249  
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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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