

-THE VOORHIS VOICE

FEBRUARY 2020

www.claremontdems.org



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS

Fridays, 11:30-1:00 pm

Issues Luncheon

Village Grill, Claremont

Get informed – and inform

The DCC's February luncheon will be **Friday, February 14**. The speaker will be **Joe Cicero** from Peace Action West – his topic will be 'Preventing Nuclear War'. 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 begins at 12:45 PM and is free. Both luncheon and program are open to the public.

The February **DCC Executive Board** meeting will take place Saturday, February 15 at 9:30 am in the Napier Center at Pilgrim Place.

The **February monthly members' meeting** will be on **Monday February 24**.

The speaker will be **Andrea Moreno**, District Director for Supervisor Hilda Solis. Her topic will be 'The 2020 Census'. The meeting will be in the Napier Center on the Pilgrim Place campus and will begin at 7pm. There will be a members' business meeting following the talk.

OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Campaign Trail

February 3, Iowa Caucus

February 11, New Hampshire Primary

February 22, Nevada Caucus

February 29, South Carolina Primary

Debates

February 7, 8th Debate: Manchester NH; sponsored by a NH TV station and Apple News. The 6 candidates who participated in the 7th (Iowa) debate have qualified (Biden, Buttigieg, Klobuchar, Sanders, Steyer, Warren), others may well do so. (This debate will be cancelled if it conflicts with Trump's trial.)

February 19, 9th Debate: Las Vegas NV; sponsored by NBC, MSNBC and The Nevada Independent.

February 25, 10th Debate: Charleston SC; sponsored by Congressional Black Caucus and Twitter

(**Note:** two more debates were on the original schedule; they have not yet been arranged.)

February 4: State of the (Dis)Union Address; Democratic Rebuttal: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (MI), Spanish Language by Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX)

February 1 – 29: Black History Month. The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the [Nineteenth Amendment](#) (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the [Fifteenth Amendment](#) (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

February 3: Indivisible Claremont/Inland Empire Monthly Meeting, Louise Roberts Room, UCC, 7 – 8:45pm.

February 14: "Forever Chemicals: "The Crisis of PFAS Contamination", sponsored by the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, Benson Auditorium, Pitzer College, 11:45 am

February 16: Fundraiser for George Gascon, candidate for Los Angeles County District Attorney. At the home of Joe Salas, 1575 Beloit Avenue, Claremont 3 - 5 PM Sunday, February 16, 2020. Contributions asked: minimum \$50; seniors \$25; students \$15. Contact Joe at 909 753-9857 or josephsalas7@hotmail.com

March 27 Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, the 16th 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





DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS

From the Editor:

In the Presidential election years of 2004, 2008, and 2012, the DCC sponsored an election headquarters in or very near Claremont (I don't know what happened prior to 2004). In 2016, given the effort and money required, we did not have headquarters building. (That didn't seem to help Trump in California!)

This year we are joining a different experiment. The California Democratic Party is paying for a HQ in western San Bernardino County in the interests of turning that area to solidly blue. The DCC has joined with that effort rather than doing something on our own.

Of course, Claremont and Claremonters do not have a history of regarding ourselves as having a community of interest with cities east of us. For instance, all the elected officials representing us come from further west: Judy Chu, Anthony Portantino, Chris Holden. So with the club making connections to the east, we recognize that that is not the normal bent of our city and its Democratic residents. Still, we think that all things considered it is a very worthwhile experiment – especially as the state party is providing the wherewithal and the operational expertise.

So the DCC Executive Board encourages the members to be prepared to do election work east of us. The HQ looks as if it shall turn out to be a very vital center of Democratic activity.

The Grand Opening (or Kickoff) will be **Saturday, February 1 from 9am to 1**. Please make an attempt to be in attendance.

12729 Foothill Blvd. Unit D, Rancho Cucamonga, CA

(Just past the I-15; turn right at the first stop light)

As Horace Greeley didn't say: 'Look East young man'.

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

Editor's Note: OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME. The editor of the Voorhis Voice ("The progressive voice of the Pomona Valley") is seeking a replacement. The salary will not put you up there with CEO of any corporation. But you can visit Tahiti in June, July and November without guilt.

From the President

Sam Pedroza

Joe Lyons, former Mayor and former colleague on the City Council, recently wrote a Viewpoint where he outlined the state and fate of our city. I echo his sentiment in that our current civic politics are far from civil and being

sentiment in that our current civic politics are far from civil and being overtaken by a few individuals that promote negative narratives. In essence, the retelling of past city decision-making that is now described as so horrible that today our city suffers, both financially and in good governance. The rehashed narratives typically conclude with a rationale as to why people need to vote NO on (fill in the blank with any city effort) in retaliation. Most recently, Measure CR in November failed, and Measure PS and SC before that met the same fate.

In response to Joe's comments, members of the committee that opposed Measure CR criticized him for not giving credit to the more than 4,000 voters who rejected Measure CR. However, they find no fault in promoting a premise that the water takeover effort was a "fiasco" even though over 7,500 people voted in favor of the effort in 2014 with Measure W.

In fact, the effort towards local control of our water system is now so mischaracterized that it has become weaponized to rally opposition, and thus is now creating division in our city.

I witnessed similar efforts in the recent past where city efforts did not go as planned and then later were used as examples to motivate political opposition. The roundabout experiment on Indian Hill Blvd. in 2000 and the short-lived Village Trolley in 2009 were both used as campaign rally cries to bring political change.

Although these efforts are now part of our city's colorful past, they should be testaments to our community's gumption to make things better. The water takeover effort failed not because bad decisions from the city staff or council but because we lost in court. We knew we were blazing a new trail. However, the courts did not share our community's enthusiasm for local control. I need to emphasize that this was a community effort. The Council did make some very difficult decisions but no decision was made in a vacuum. We had several community members and experts, and, as I stated earlier, we were backed by 72% of the voters.

The narrative that this effort was a "fiasco" is not true. The reality is that this effort was a mandate from our community. However, where we have failed is in not responding early to the false and negative interpretations from negative people. These false narratives now have a life of their own. Yet to simply accept these negative narratives, accepting the promotion of "government is the problem" mentalities, and saying "no" to any city led effort, as Joe stated in his Viewpoint, will not fix our civic situation. The political wins of these few will ultimately be a major loss for the community we have cherished and found so unique for many years.

An Invitation

It's a different day in March, not the 15th (the Ides) but the 27th.

It's a different Latin group, not the Romans but the Latino and Latina Round Table.

It's a different Caesar, not the emperor but Cesar the farmworker/union

founder.

It's a different event, not a coronation (or worse) but a breakfast.

This is your invitation to join with other members of our Democratic Club in attending the 16th Annual Cesar Chavez Breakfast at the Sheraton Fairplex. The event will begin at 8:00 AM on Friday, March 27, 2020.

The annual celebration honors the legacy of Cesar Chavez as it recognizes community leaders and presents four students with significant scholarships.

Since its inception, the breakfast has grown from less than 50 attendees to more than 500. The Latino and Latina Roundtable is an organization dedicated to promoting educational programs to advance leadership, communication and effective civic participation to provide a proactive voice. The annual breakfast raises money for the goals of the organization.

The cost of a table seating ten persons is \$625.00, with each attending person paying \$62.50. Please be one of those attending. Contact Carolee Monroe at 909-626-8122 or jackncarolee@verizon.net.

January Presentations at Club Meetings

By Carolee Monroe

January Luncheon

Sarah Jakle, Outreach Director of Field Team 6, initiated the 2020 Gar Byrum Distinguished Speaker Series with a catalog of some of our most immediate concerns. Our climate catastrophe, the assault on women's reproductive rights, gun safety and health care, she said, are just the top of the list of issues under attack. With Trump and the GOP actively suppressing the vote, she asserted that "the Republic is at risk".

She stressed that the best method to respond is through partisan voter registration. To maintain a Democratic majority in the US House of Representatives, retake the US Senate and elect a Democrat as president, along with electing Democrats "down ballot", registering Democratic voters is necessary.

Jakle said that Field Team 6 is one of the organizations that was responsible for the Democratic majority in the US House of Representatives, especially for those representatives elected from Orange County. The organization not only registered voters but advocated vote by mail. She urged her audience to "be out there" so other hidden Democrats realize they are not alone.

Jakle's approach to registering voters is positive and non-confrontational. She positions herself near a courthouse or college or mall. She greets a prospective voter with a question, such as, "Hello, would you like to save...?" If the response indicates that the person supports Trump, Jakle answers with, "Have a nice day" and turns away with a smile. The highest motivator in politics is hate, she asserts, and will only make those on the other side work harder.

When a prospective voter indicates a willingness to have a conversation. Jakle

will share such data such as the local GOP incumbent's record of voting with Trump and present the progressive candidate's proposed agenda. People do care about the issues and so need them to be linked to the outcome of elections, she said.

Field Team 6, as an organization, is proud of its activism and links it to Martin Luther King, Jr. Its actions include local and out-of-state registration drives. Jakle offered these, along with funding, to us as ways to support the group.

Those in attendance were impressed with Jakle's enthusiasm, motivation and positive approach. In the Q/A, GOP actions to repress the vote in several states were discussed.

January Members' Meeting

"The Schools and Communities First Initiative - Reforming Prop 13"

Proposition 13, approved by California voters in 1978, had written into it a "poison pill", according to **Louie Duran**, DCC member, SEIU retired president and current Treasurer of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA).

Louie fully believes that Howard Jarvis and proponents of the proposition knowingly wrote it such that corporations and businesses were to be covered by the Proposition, even though they were not likely to be losing their homes to high property tax rates. Whereas before Proposition 13 passed, the taxes paid by residential properties and commercial properties in the state were roughly equal. Now (this is the poison) residents are footing about 70% of the overall tax bill.

In explaining why Prop 13 needs to be revised, Louie and **Jenni Chang**, CARA's Southern California organizer, gave a history of the proposition, what prompted its passage, and the effects it has had on California's property taxes during the forty years of application. An example used, and as displayed in the brochure that was distributed, compared the residential property tax rate per square foot (\$0.40) of the average Californian Family Income (\$61,635) to the commercial rate (\$0.05) of the Walt Disney Corp. Annual Income (\$42,278,000,000). This has resulted because homes are sold, on average, every eleven years while corporate properties rarely change ownership. Other examples of the inequity were shared, with the theme that the playing field needs to be leveled. Note: not one single residential property would have its tax bill raised as a result of this bill – that includes single family homes and even apartments. The new assessments called for by the bill apply only to (expensive) commercial properties.

The Schools and Communities First Initiative would amend Prop 13 by requiring commercial and industrial property to be assessed at market value. The added revenue, estimated to be up to \$12 billion annually, would benefit local schools and public services.

Although there is an initiative that has qualified for the November ballot, voters are encouraged to sign the petition for a revised version. The

difference is that the qualified version would continue to tax business properties valued at less than \$2 million based on the purchase price rather than market value while the revised version currently being circulated raises that amount to \$3 million.

Whichever is on the ballot: VOTE FOR IT



Essays Etc. by Club Members

Great California Progressives #10

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, Harry Bridges and Jackie Robinson.

Tom Hayden (1939-2016)

Merrill Ring

Tom Hayden? What's he doing among the Great California Progressives?

When we think of Tom Hayden we no doubt think of him as a leader in the SDS, the Students for a Democratic Society, the major student activist organization of the 1960's; the author of the Port Huron Statement, the manifesto of the student left; as a major opponent of the war in Vietnam; as one of the Chicago 7, indicted by the Nixon Administration for inciting the "police riots" at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago (for which he and the others were originally found guilty and later acquitted).

What we do not know is that Hayden, a Michigan boy with a comfortable life, a student at the University of Michigan, was

radicalized during the summer of 1960 while taking a road trip to California. He met people picketing Woolworths in solidarity with the Woolworth protests in the south; he went to the fields and learned what conditions agricultural workers endured; finally he met Martin Luther King in a picket line and was converted by him into a life of activism. His progressive politics were born in California.

What we tend to forget is that Hayden, after moving to California in the early '70s and becoming involved in California politics, was elected to the California State Assembly in 1982 and served there for ten years – then moved on to the State Senate in 1992 where he served another eight years. In those eighteen years as a legislator, he developed progressive legislation on a variety of topics. The Sacramento Bee, a major newspaper not known for its radicalism, named Hayden “the conscience of the Senate”.

In short, he was a major political figure both nationwide and within California. As with so many others who have come to California and moved the state in a progressive Democratic direction, Hayden is a for the state and the nation a Great Progressive Democrat.

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

The January 10 edition of the Claremont Courier published two Viewpoint pieces by DCC members. Both had to do with the governance of Claremont. Both are reprinted in full here. The first is by Joe Lyons, the second by Bob Gerecke

I

Dear Fellow Residents of Claremont,

As we begin a new decade filled with many challenges on all fronts, particularly those created by our collective failure to approve Measure CR in November, I am compelled to speak out on the state and fate of our City. In doing so, I hope to put in stark relief the far more serious impacts to our Community than the simple loss of a much needed and sustainable revenue source - impacts that make it imperative that every resident of Claremont give serious thought to the future of our beloved Community.

I have on two occasions addressed the City Council to express my disappointment in our failure as residents of Claremont to pass Measure CR. In so doing, WE THE PEOPLE failed in our duty as citizens to provide our newly elected City Council majority with a financial resource that would help them meet the fiscal obligations and challenges they were elected to address.

And to be clear, Measure CR should not have been of an attempt to coerce our Council to adopt a balanced budget, because as a municipality there is no option but to “live within our means,” or of eliminating waste and becoming “leaner and meaner,” as these austerity measures have already been implemented during the last three budget cycles. Nor should any vote have been cast to register opposition to pending issues before our current Council, or disagreement with decisions taken by past Councils. And it should not have been used as a referendum on our Community’s unsuccessful attempt to own and manage the water resource beneath our feet.

Rather, it was about providing our Council with the sufficient means to: 1) maintain the level and kind of public safety provided to us, our businesses, and visitors, and 2) to continue the unbroken investment in the numerous quality of life and public service enhancements that make Claremont a destination worth visiting, a desired location to start a business, and most importantly, the community we call home.

And yet, in the public debate and published letters and comments leading up to the final vote, what Measure CR should not have been about, became the reason(s) a small but sufficient majority of Claremont residents denied our newly elected Council, and all future Councils, a revenue source that would help pay forward our Community’s inheritance.

And herein for me, lies the cause of a far greater concern for the integrity of our Community, a threat which since the 1980s has been perniciously undermining the belief of good people, that good governance should be the end game, and not its elimination by drowning. This clear and present danger to our core understanding of good governance is something I thought we were immune to experiencing in Claremont, by virtue of our City’s unique heritage of open and inclusive participatory governance.

And yet, here we are 40 years after its inaugural utterance as a guiding principle of National policy, that a small but vocal group of Claremont

residents have methodically and strategically advanced the notion that “government is the problem,” and elected officials and public employees are the cause. With nothing to suggest any redeeming economic, social, or environmental value to the visionless policies it has spawned, they remain steadfast in their efforts to shrink and starve government, our government, the City of Claremont. To their credit, they have contributed to the failure of two super majority requiring bond measures to construct a new public safety facility (Measures PR and SC), and in November, the simple majority requiring Measure CR.

Notwithstanding that each measure could and should have failed if the discrepancies and deficiencies were as real as claimed by the opponents. However, the need to use subtle and effective rhetoric that generates confusion, doubt, and uncertainty regarding the facts that define the need, and by inference brings into question the veracity, integrity, and competency of our Councilpersons and City Staff, speaks to an objective other than an honest appraisal of the facts.

And although motive is always difficult to assign, absent being voiced by its holder, further proof is available in the results of the two advisory committees composed of our fellow residents that were formed to address the public safety bond measure failures. These well intentioned efforts by our City Council were designed to arrive at a consensus regarding the specifics of a measure that would likely receive voter approval. And to the Council’s credit, and in keeping with the spirit of inclusion of all viewpoints in the process, those voicing the strongest opposition were not only included, but significantly influenced the outcome.

The first addressed Measure PS, with Measure SC being the failed product of that effort. In its turn, a new Police Station Citizens Advisory Committee was formed, concluding its work with a report and non-consensus approved recommendations that were presented to the current Council, who decided to delay moving forward with a new bond, pending the outcome of Measure CR.

And with hammer and nails in hand, these same small number of our neighbors who “won” in November, have already volunteered to serve on the Council Budget Working Group in order to help our City Council and Staff find ways to live within the already inadequate means to do all the things we expect of them.

And before concluding, one additional proclivity of those who operate from the opinion that “government is the problem,” is to find fault with almost everything that the government does, and to suggest oversimplified alternative solutions to complex and highly regulated issues. Just saying “no” or not paying a bill are not options when attempting to address issues over which our City Council has little or no jurisdiction.

As a former Mayor and City Councilperson who served during most of the last decade, I must acknowledge with great pride and privilege, the opportunity I had to serve with now retired and former Mayors Opanyi Nasiali and Sam Pedroza, and incumbents Mayor Larry Schroeder and former Mayor Corey Calaycay. In all matters discussed and acted upon from the dais, and when representing our City in the exercise of their extra-municipal duties and assignments, each demonstrated a commitment to the highest principles

and single-minded integrity and dedication to the best interests of our City and Community.

The enviable history of Claremont's civic life includes its adoption and steadfast commitment to a simple set of political processes that encourages an exceptional level of public participation that promotes transparency and accountability. This, in turn, has provided our Community with a continuous source of well qualified and dedicated candidates of the highest integrity to counsel and conduct the business of WE THE PEOPLE, the residents of Claremont.

Our three newly elected Councilpersons, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Stark, Jed Leano, and Ed Reece are products of this process, and have demonstrated themselves persons of the highest integrity and unquestionable commitment to "faithfully discharge" their duties as Councilpersons. They have fulfilled one of their shared campaign promises to identify potential revenue sources and solutions that will preserve the quality of life and level of public safety past generations invested in to our benefit.

Our responsibility to them is to respect their request to approve the collection of a 3/4 cent sales tax on transactions that take place in Claremont, for the sole use of Claremont. Anything less would mean that we do think that "government is the problem," and the solution is to shrink and starve it of the resources necessary for our City and Community to thrive and prosper.

The choice to reconsider the request is up to us. Are "WE THE PEOPLE" ready to fulfill our responsibility to those we elect to assure our safety and quality of life.

Your fellow Claremonter,
Joe Lyons

II.

Look to the Colleges, city employees to find savings

By Bob Gerecke

The pause in the process of establishing the citizens' budget committee gives us an opportunity to think more carefully about its work.

I suggest that we distinguish between outputs and inputs. Outputs are the results we seek, such as healthy trees, safe neighborhoods, usable streets, beautiful parks, community spirit and excellent property values. Inputs are the staff time, contractor time, equipment, supplies, space and activities which produce the results. A citizens' committee is appropriate to define the extent of the desired results and to prioritize them, with plenty of public advice collected at public hearings and by other means such as letters and emails, but it lacks the time and expertise to evaluate whether the inputs are appropriately chosen and paid for and are efficiently used.

The necessary expertise in systems, organizations and management probably exists at the Drucker School of Management, CGU and the undergraduate colleges. The City Council should work with these valuable local higher-

education resources to identify their capabilities and interest. They might even be willing to analyze City operations pro bono or at low cost as an opportunity for practical education or for research. Our City spends many thousands of dollars on other expert consultants; we shouldn't overlook the possibility of expert consultation which may save money for years.

By focusing on outputs, i.e., results, the citizens' committee can avoid discussion of internal matters which require a closed session. It can therefore meet in public. The colleges' findings and recommendations about employee compensation, contracts, equipment, organizational structure, job classifications, work methods, work distribution and flow, and other inputs can be presented to the City Council for review in closed session, and content which does not require closed session can then be made public.

In addition, I suggest that current and former City employees be given a means to offer information and suggestions, anonymously if they wish. Often employees know where efficiency can be improved or expense can be avoided. After all, they know the work more intimately than the rest of us do. A current employee may think of a better idea at any time while performing work, and a former employee may see how something is done better at his/her new employer or get an idea while reflecting during retirement. The messages should go to the Mayor or to a Council sub-committee, who can divide them between public and confidential content. The employee suggestion system should be made permanent, and if a current or former employee's information or suggestion submitted non-anonymously produces savings, he/she should share in the first 12 months of those savings as a just reward and an incentive to others. Many businesses share savings with their employees in this manner and for these reasons. The existence of an official suggestion system, the possibility of reward and the option to remain anonymous will encourage the free flow of ideas.

Any employees who leave during this committee period should be given an exit interview by one or two Council members to solicit their advice, and the exit interview practice should also be made permanent along with the employee suggestion plan. No opportunity to elicit potentially valuable feedback should be overlooked.

Because of the possibility that a current or former employee may be "settling a score" with his/her superior or with another employee, all information and suggestions from them will need to be carefully evaluated, but their advice may be helpful in revealing potential improvements which otherwise might not be discovered.

If we are serious about finding savings, which are absolutely necessary, these suggestions seem to be a thorough, reasonable and logical way to proceed.

By Carolee Monroe, published in the Courier January 24, 2020

Mike Magilke criticizes the city's release of funds to upgrade the Depot suggesting that it is a piece of governmental corruption. The criticism is not

warranted.

Proposition C, passed in 1990, provides jurisdictions within LA County to improve transportation facilities of all sorts. Claremont wrote a grant proposal in 2016 to Metro (the organization charged with dispersing Proposition C monies) for funding to bring parts of the Depot up to seismic and disability standards. That proposal was accepted and the city awarded over \$300K for the project.

In other words, the agency charged with deciding whether proposals met the criteria for awards and for deciding between competing requests for funding found both that Claremont's proposal met the aims of Proposition C for transportation improvements and further decided that with respect to competing proposals Claremont's was ranked high enough for approval. There was not the slightest piece of governmental corruption in that.

The City has had control of the money since 2017. There is a 3 year deadline for using the funds allocated or they must be returned to the granting agency. That 3 year deadline is approaching and so the city, with contracts let, released the funds for the project. That is what Magilke also thinks to be a piece of mis-government. It clearly isn't.

Why would the city and Metro both think that bringing the Depot up to standards while it currently has no transportation function is worthy of spending money on? Because the Depot has a continuing possibility of transportation use. Its existence and possible future use is part of transportation planning. That being so, there is a need to maintain it.

Our city council is to be thanked for its intelligent piece of foresight and planning for the Depot project.

By Pam Nagler, published in the Courier, January 24

In his letter titled "Depot Delusion," Matt Magilke claims that the old Claremont Depot is currently not being used for transit purposes and thus should not be eligible for Prop C transportation funds.

However, it is my understanding that though the building currently houses the Claremont Museum of Art, it also houses the electrical system for the entire transit center. If I am mistaken, I hope someone corrects me.

By Merrill Ring: The following letter was submitted to the Courier on January 20

We don't know what will be the outcome of Trump's assassination of General Soleimani, but we do know how the sequence of events that has led to that act began. It was Trump's arbitrary and unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear accord with Iran and the subsequent sanctions placed on Iran that have led, response by response, to the assassination. The accord reached by Obama and the Iranian government was a major step forward in trying to settle the long-

the Iranian government was a major step forward in trying to settle the long hostilities between the two countries. By backing out of it, any hope of further positive steps between the U.S. and Iran were lost.

An important and interesting sidebar to the current situation is the role of evangelical Christians in producing what followed the end of the Obama led nuclear accord. That version of Christianity believes in The Rapture, the impending end of the world when only a small slice of humanity will be saved from the destruction. And that event will be preceded by the triumph of Israel over its enemies, especially it seems Iran. So any act leading to the defeat of Iran and the promotion of Israel is to be welcomed. Guess who believes that? Mike Pompeo. The evidence is that he is the one (possibly with Pence at his side) who manipulated Trump to engage in a very risky assassination. Pompeo's motives were not Trump's, who has not a religious idea in his head. No, Pompeo, knowing Trump's belligerence, convinced him that it was the manly thing to do, that it would prove that (once again) he was not a wimp like Obama.



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

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 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
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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.

Newsletter Editor: Merrill Ring
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