

-THE VOORHIS VOICE

MAY 2020

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DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS

FRIDAY issues 'lunches' - Zoom Meeting, Mel Boynton Organizer

MONTHLY 'LUNCHEON' - Zoom Meeting: Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (52nd Assembly District) open discussion, Friday May 8th, noon

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - Zoom Meeting, Saturday May 16

MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING - Zoom Meeting: Andy Winnick on 'FDR and the Green New Deal', Monday May 25 (Memorial Day), 7pm

OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Campaign Trail

There are some Democratic primaries/caucuses in May:

May 2: Guam caucuses, Kansas primary

May 12: Nebraska

May 19: Oregon

May 22: Hawaii (changed to vote by mail only)

Notice: The **Democratic National Convention** originally scheduled for July 13-16 has been postponed to **week of August 17**.

Other Events

A joint Zoom meeting of the Pomona Valley UNA-USA and the University Club of Claremont is open to the public: Tuesday May 5 at 12 noon. Topic: "What We Need to Know about Covid-19 and Pandemic Responses" presented by Dr. Divya Chander, MD., PhD, Stanford Medicine.

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82280101918?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82280101918?pwd=WGd6SkUraUE4VktLWDR0SzhVNEQrUT09)

[pwd=WGd6SkUraUE4VktLWDR0SzhVNEQrUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82280101918?pwd=WGd6SkUraUE4VktLWDR0SzhVNEQrUT09)

Meeting ID: 822 8010 1918 Password: 084790

Or Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

The March 27 Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, has been **POSTPONED**.

The new date is Friday, **September 25**.



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS

From the Editor

Despite state shut-downs of activities, preparation for the November election at all levels of government is proceeding although the amount of public noise generated is less than normal: except of course for the outpouring of lies, misinformation and abandonment of responsibility on the part of the President.

No one knows exactly how all this will turn out. Will there be a Democratic Convention (which has already been postponed a month)? Is Trump's massive failures as a leader cause him and fellow Republicans to lose elections? How will the campaign especially for Democrats be conducted? What condition will our economy be in at election time?

Let me conclude with some somber thoughts on our current situation by Fintan O'Toole, a really good Irish (and hence European) journalist and commentator, by Josh Marshall, a really good American journalist and commentator and by George Packer, American author.

O'Toole: "Over more than two centuries, the United States has stirred a very wide range of feelings in the rest of the world: love and hatred, fear and hope, envy and contempt, awe and anger. But there is one emotion that has never been directed towards the US until now: pity. However bad things are for most other rich democracies, it is hard not to feel sorry for Americans. Most of them did not vote for Donald Trump in 2016. Yet they are locked down with a malignant narcissist who, instead of protecting his people from Covid-19, has amplified its lethality. The country Trump promised to make great again has never in its history seemed so pitiful."

Marshall: "... with perhaps the greatest long term repercussions, the Trump administration has failed so badly, so accurately modeled the behavior of five year olds, that we've gone a decent way toward discrediting the model of civic democracy and the rule of law we should be supporting at home and around the world. We've done about as good a job as one could imagine telling the story that maybe the authoritarians just handle things better. It's embarrassing. We're an embarrassment."

Packer: "The crisis demanded a response that was swift, rational, and collective. The United States reacted instead like Pakistan or Belarus—like a country with shoddy infrastructure and a dysfunctional government whose leaders were too corrupt or stupid to head off mass suffering.... Every morning in the endless month of March, Americans woke up to find themselves citizens of a failed state. With no national plan—no coherent instructions at all—families, schools, and offices were left to decide on their own whether to shut down and take shelter.... Russia, Taiwan, and the United Nations sent humanitarian aid to the world's richest power—a beggar nation in utter chaos."

Note: the world is not flocking to my call to replace me as editor of the Voorhis Voice. That means you stand a good chance of being the lucky person if you but apply.

DCC Meetings are Now on Zoom

The Executive Board, after research, decided that Zoom was the best platform for the club to use in conducting its virtual meetings. As a result, we have subscribed (for a modest fee) to a Zoom program that enables longer meetings and more control over possible interruptions of meetings.

Executive Board Letter to Claremont City Council

The City Council was to consider an ordinance giving Claremont renters a respite in making their rental payments during the coming months. It turned out that LA County passed an ordinance making the local effort irrelevant. By that time the Executive Board had submitted the following letter to the Council.

The full extent of the economic disaster which is following on the attempt to control the pandemic is unknown at this time. However, the present situation is very difficult for many people – 16 million out of work already. Moreover, a significant number of people who are, and who will be, jobless are likely to be

renters and thus in serious need of assistance so that they do not join the already swollen ranks of the homeless. We need to do everything in our power to lend them a hand.

The proposed ordinance should be conceived as a necessary short-term measure and its imperfections accepted. The federal and state measures dealing with this same crisis will evolve as the full extent of the economic collapse becomes known. We locally, while doing what we can in the short term, must acknowledge that our assistance will have to evolve too.

While the city has already set aside money for renters' assistance, no one has any knowledge at present of whether that money will be sufficient to deal with the developing crisis. To pass the proposed ordinance will be a step in improving the safety net should the situation get out of hand.

One of the imperfections in the proposal is the need to deal with mom and pop landlords whose mortgage payments will need to be addressed in the rental crisis. That step should be taken immediately following the passage of a bill designed to provide relief to renters.

The Executive Board of the Democratic Club of Claremont thus endorses the passage of the ordinance by the Claremont City Council.

Sam Pedroza, President

Chris Naticchia, John Forney, Debi Evans, Merrill Ring, Carolee Monroe, Carol Whitson, Murray Monroe, Board Members

Announcement of DCC Member's Appointment

John Harabedian, Mayor of Sierra Madre and representative for the LA County Democratic Party from AD-41, has asked **Debi Evans** to be his alternate. Thus Claremont and the DCC now has representation at the county level.

School Board Candidacy of DCC Member

There will be two openings for seats on the CUSD Board in the November election. The DCC Vice-President for Programs, **Chris Naticchia**, is actively running for a seat. One board member who was not going to run again was moving out of town in March and so had to resign her seat at that time. The Board asked for applications to fill the seat until the election. While Chris was one of the ten applicants, the Board chose a former member, Mary Caenepeel, for the temporary position, acting, no doubt, to maintain experience on the board and to not interfere in the scheduled election.

Obituary: Robbie Cendejas

Robbie Cendejas was most active in the Democratic Club of Claremont as a proponent of repealing the Social Security offsets, WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) and GPO (Government Pension Offset). She led the DCC to write

and pass (some years ago) a resolution to repeal those unfair laws which are conservative attempts to discourage people from government service. Robbie's other interests included Claremont Progressives / Move Forward and California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA).

She had been an outstanding elementary school teacher and later principal.

As a leader in the retired teachers' organization, she was a Director on the State Laura E. Settles Scholarship Foundation Board as well as chairing the local division decisions on which teachers and prospective teachers to be awarded educational scholarships. She held various other leadership roles and, personally, would offer first year memberships to retired teachers not members of the organization.

Summaries of Club Meetings in April

By Carolee Monroe

(1) *Friday luncheon presentation on Zoom*: State Senator **Anthony Portantino** was the speaker at our first Friday luncheon held on Zoom (Friday, April 10). There were eight club members in attendance (and a representative from the Senator's office). Some of the topics he talked about:

He was sponsoring a Virtual Town Hall meeting with mental health specialists who would offer suggestions to families on how to cope with the pandemic.

He praised Governor Newsom for his handling of the crisis. A major issue in these circumstances is when to halt the shut-down: too early would open a serious possibility of a second wave of the virus with grave consequences for both health and the economy. The California Office of Emergency Services are offering daily briefings to local officials to keep them informed of the latest information: the problems discussed include housing, tenant protection and public health. There are some state constitutional deadlines coming up: June 15 is the budget deadline and August 31 is the end of the legislative session.

He was asked about the status of the Late Start Program (it will be implemented over years and a new definition of what counts as a rural district must be developed); about the role of cities as front-liners during the pandemic crisis; in response to a question about viable alternatives to SB 50 he cited a proposal by the Los Angeles County League of Cities; further about housing he mentioned a suggestion from the Los Angeles County Business Federation regarding redesignating commercial property as housing; he noted that in housing legislation both renters and landlords must be taken into account; when asked, he was skeptical about the possibility of a positive vote on splitting Proposition 13 (the big business interests will throw all manner of money into defeating it).

The club would like to thank Senator Portantino for being our 'guinea pig' in our first attempt to have a Zoom presentation.

(2) *Members' Zoom Meeting on Monday April 27*: The speakers were two Native Americans who are elders in their nations, **Hannah Kivalahula-Uddin** of the Dinwiddie Tribe and **James Fendley** of the Lakota/Dakota Standing Rock

Ruyahup Tibe and James Fenelon of the Lakota/Dakota Standing Rock Nation. Both are professors at Cal State University San Bernardino. Their general topic was “Native American Issues”: Kivalahula-Uddin spoke about “Decolonization of the Mind and Tribal Schools to Improve Academic Achievement for American Indians”, and Fenelon talked about “Native Nations and Sovereignty Movements - Historical Struggles to Present Day US”.

Because the program was recorded and can be viewed at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ysxqHa_uq0RIbqv0wXj_Ua0IEKi8eaa8hHJL-6EKmBuGtw2s2Eo9j0NryptA4s_A and then entering the Password: 4K%08@46,

I chose not to summarize the program. Instead, I offer this comment: the working titles of Kivalahula-Uddin’s and Fenelon’s presentations are self-explanatory. Kivalahula-Uddin’s talk leads to suggestions for staff development inservices and workshops at the beginning of each school year focused on encouraging education. Fenelon offers a mind-set of values held by Native Americans, including their relationship circles and their respect for law and honor. To learn more about the history of the United States and outcomes of our territorial spread from the perspective of the vanquished, check out recording of the meeting.



Essays Etc. by Club Members

Stimulus Package in a Nutshell

Merrill Ring (with the unwitting assistance of Andy Winnick)

Andy Winnick passed on to the Issues discussion group the following piece of economic education (something that we probably should have been taught in Econ 101 but probably weren't).

It is a slow day in the small Saskatchewan town of Pump-handle and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, and everybody is in debt and living on credit.

A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night. As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op.

The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything...

However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how a stimulus package works.

There is a further wrinkle that needs to be added to that story. The money used to stimulate an excellent economic outcome is a \$100 bill, a physical object with a social purpose. However, in the case of government stimulus programs, there are no such actual pieces of currency used. Congress says 'Spend this much' and money is thereby *created*: extra currency is not printed (except incidentally) yet there is now the ability to make payments (such as our recent relief checks) and loans.

Since our Econ 101 class did such a poor job telling us about what money is, we need to have a crash course in its basics if we are to understand the economic possibilities provided by government action as Democrats recommend.



Letters from Club Members

*The following letter by **Merrill Ring** appeared in the Claremont Courier on Friday April 17*

Dear Editor:

Our President wants to re-start the economy as soon as May 1 no matter

what the health consequences. Why does he want to do that?

1) The first reason is obvious: his only selling point to non-true-believers for his re-election was that he is presiding over (what he thinks of as) a booming economy. With the economy crashing, he can't make that argument and that inability can well cost him re-election. So, he wants the economy to get back on its feet fast.

2) The second reason also has to do with him: the Trump Organization is losing millions of dollars. He/it is in the travel business: hotels, resorts, restaurants. Travel, however, is completely stalled. Several of his hotels have shut down, his restaurants have no customers, the organization is laying off workers hand over fist. The economic crash is hurting him in his wallet and he has a well-known love of making money.

3) The third reason is not personal: if the economy continues to fall, then those pesky Democrats with their Socialist ways will be clamoring for Socialist solutions and gaining public support for them. Why they might even pass Medicare for All and the Green New Deal! For Trump, such prospects have to be prevented. So, get the economy functioning before those nasty possibilities come to pass.

Those who fully support him will deny that those are the reasons for his wanting economic recovery immediately. Rather they will claim that he recognizes that our well-being is not simply our health but what a strong economy provides and that that is the reason he is seeking to re-start the machine immediately. The response to that is simple: there is not a shred of evidence supporting it – there is nothing in Trump's entire history that points to his having as a motive for any action that he has a concern for the welfare of anyone other than himself and his kin.

Trump believers will hold that I make those criticisms because I 'hate' him, because my emotions lead to nastiness. They have the cart before the horse. The situation is not 'He is despicable, therefore he must be criticized' – it is rather a completely rational response to the evidence: 'The record shows that he repeatedly thinks and acts wrongly, therefore he is unfit to be President'.



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.

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