

REDLANDS AREA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Vol. 2, Issue 12: March 2015

<http://wp.redlandsdemocrats.org>



The Progressive



RADC Committee reports

Our various committees have now begun planning and for some, carrying out some plans. Committee meetings were held this month at Dianne’s home. Here are the reports of those committees:

PROGRAM:

The Program Committee developed a list of possible program topics for RADC monthly meetings for the rest of this year and into next year. Ideas are the following:

- Tension between police and racial minorities or regional areas
- The militarization of police
- Physician-assisted suicide
- Climate change
- The Iran/Israel/ Isis dilemma
- Common core – pros and cons
- Citizens United
- Fair wages
- The future of unions
- The erosion of voting rights

Possible speakers were discussed but not yet contacted. If you have any suggestions for speakers on these topics, please let a member of the program committee know and, if possible, provide contact information.

The following members serve on this committee: Dianne Landeros, Kristin Washington, Jack Brennan, Nancy Ruth White and Roger Bell. Diane will be hosting a dinner meeting for this committee on Friday, March 27, 6 pm at her home. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

###

LEGISLATIVE/ADVOCACY

The Legislative/Advocacy committee decided on the following goals:

- Select a small number of bills (state and/or federal) and initiatives to follow with letters and calls to legislative office. These should not all be on environmental topics (in 2014, we took positions on two bills, both environmental).
- In cooperation with Elections Committee, keep in touch with offices of elected Democrat(s) from our area, such as Aguilar, to help assure continued support for progressive legislation, to consider offering support for their bills, and to discuss their accessibility and service to the public (“to stay re-electable”).

Members of this committee are Ron Hattis, Ben Brandon, Nancy Ruth White, Lorraine Enriquez, and Kathryn Hagerman.

###

ELECTIONS/GOTV (*Get Out the Vote*)

The Election/GOTV Committee meeting resulted in establishing the following goals:

- Registration efforts targeted to under-registered group:
 - a) North Redlands: try outside markets?
 - b) University of Redlands: consult with Young Democrats Club
 - c) Loma Linda: consult with Justin Kim.
- Recruit promising potential candidates for 2016 for local races.
- In cooperation with Legislative/Advocacy Committee, keep in touch with offices of elected Democrat(s) from our area (see above).

Members who serve on this committee are Ron Hattis, John Schricker, Dianne Landeros, and Nancy Blastos.

###

FUNDRAISING:

This committee came up with ideas for fundraising events. They decided that two types of fundraising events would be sought: Events to raise money for candidates and events to raise money for the club (and hopefully meet our goal of opening a Democratic headquarters in Redlands). This committee is at the brainstorming stage and will discuss further at its next meeting. Fundraising ideas expressed to date are:

- A campaign fundraiser
- An Earth Day party to focus on anti-fracking and climate change in April.

<i>In This Issue:</i>	Page
Club Committee reports	1-2
RADC Voices	2-4
Website and Club Facebook Page(s)	5
Notice to Readers	5
Representatives contact information/	6
RADC Leadership	6

Committee reports, cont'd.

- A Cinco de Mayo party on May 10.
- A summer picnic/ club fundraiser in June.
- An event in September to celebrate International Peace Day.
- A welcoming party in October for new members.
- Possibly an event in March 2016 to celebrate Women's History month.
- An event on the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act to bring attention to the erosion of voting rights.

This committee notes that it does not propose to hold all of these events, but will choose from among these. A decision on which events to hold will be decided at its next committee meeting. Please let this committee know what you think of these ideas and which ones you would like to see us pursue. The committee asks that you join and be part of the planning. Although the next meeting date has not been set yet, an email will be sent to all club members notifying you of the date.

Members who serve on this committee are Carole Coley, Dianne Landeros, Jack Brennan, Lorraine Enriquez, Sharon Swan, and Ande Spencer.

###

MEMBERSHIP:

This committee decided on the following goals:

- Utilize social media such as Facebook for more exposure.
- Ask members to visit the Facebook page and make positive comments about RADC and Democratic leaders.
- Encourage members to recruit members.
- Suggest that members write letters on relevant topics to the editor for our local newspapers for more exposure.
- Plan democratic mixers at local establishments such as Olive Market on weekends to attract more younger members who work during the week.
- Make a robust effort to seek renewals from former RADC members.
- Have someone serve as greeter at monthly meetings. (John Coley agreed to chair this committee and serve as greeter.)
- Prepare membership packets for prospective and new members.

Members who serve on this committee are Dianne Landeros, Nancy Ruth White, John Coley, Carole Coley, Ben Brandon, Lorraine Enriquez, and Diana Bowling.

###

COMMUNICATIONS:

There is no current report from this committee as of this writing. Members who serve on this committee are Dick Tully, Roger Bell, Les Greenberg, Jack Brennan, Lorraine Enriquez, Kristin Washington, and Ande Spencer.

###

More about committees

The Redlands Area Democratic Club prides itself in having talented members from all walks of life. We encourage you to put those talents to use by joining a committee and help us reach our goals.

Although face-to-face meetings are preferred, committees may choose to meet by email or phone. If you are interested in joining one of these committees and utilizing your talents, please let us know by emailing RADC at redlandsdems@gmail.com or you can easily sign up at our regular monthly meetings.

Questions? Don't hesitate to ask any club officer or trustee.

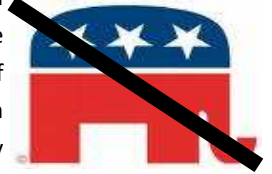
###

RADC Voices

Club member **Jane Roberts** shares her voice with us on:

"Why I'm Not a Republican"

I don't think I'm wrong when I say that the Republican Party is tinged with racism. I think racists are in general more comfortable in the Republican Party than they would be in the Democratic Party. Only one Republican member of the House of Representatives, majority leader Kevin McCarthy, attended the Selma Bloody Sunday 50 year commemoration last weekend after criticism that no Republican House member was attending. Fifty years ago Bloody Sunday galvanized the country to adopt the Voting Rights Act. Particularly in the deep South, Blacks had been systematically denied the franchise.



In 2013, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. Guess what! States with Republican legislatures and governors immediately set about adopting new voter ID laws and other onerous requirements designed to make voting more difficult for the poor, the elderly, and minorities. Republican Presidents Reagan and George W. Bush were both proud to sign renewals of the Voting Rights Act. What happened to the Republican Party? Now renewal of the Voting Rights Act would never pass the Republican controlled Congress.

Over the last several years several Republican party officials at different levels, local, state, national, have been caught sending out ugly racist jokes to their cohorts. They have obviously thought these jokes would be accepted as "cute".

Although there are Obama-hating and Hillary-hating people, I don't think the Hillary-hating will reach the level that Obama-hating has done if she becomes President. There are people who

just can't stomach a black man in the White House. I was looking for a birthday card for my brother-in-law at the Redlands Mall CVS pharmacy the other day and happened to notice a card with a picture of President Obama on the front and inside I found this message: "There are even scarier things than turning a year older." Yuck!

Prominent Republicans have very lately said that Obama wasn't a patriot or said they didn't know whether he was or not.

There was that whole "birther" thing. Good grief!

Republican governors and legislators are on tax-cutting binges, balancing their state budgets on the backs of their less fortunate and at the expense of their educational systems, particularly their colleges and universities. Sam Brownback in Kansas is the prime example.

The Republican Party seems not to be bothered that millions of Americans have no health insurance. They've not come up with any semblance of a plan to replace Obamacare, which by the way has enrolled about 12 million people at last count.

The unwritten policy to not use the terms "climate change", "global warming" or "sustainability" in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection went into effect after Republican Rick Scott appointed Herschel Vinyard Jr. as the DEP director. This was reported by the Miami Herald on March 10.

I know there is a whole history of Republican environmentalism. Theodore Roosevelt for starters. But honestly it has been Republican interests which have fought against improvements in fuel efficiency for cars, which have pushed fracking, which have pushed oil drilling in pristine areas. And of course on TV there is the woman who wraps all this up in red, white, and blue.

I equate the Republican Party with big money interests. Big money is not evil by itself but it seems to want to buy elections, i.e. the Koch brothers. The Citizens United decision by our Republican leaning Supreme Court was purely and simply a frontal attack on our democracy.

For me the Republican Party wants to consistently cut taxes for the wealthy, money which I think would be better spent on this country's deteriorating infrastructure.

There is a split over foreign policy in the Republican Party. Simply put Rand Paul seems to want us to let those people "over there" fight it out. Lindsey Graham and John McCain seem to want our troops on the ground everywhere. Remember that George W. Bush never put his Iraq war on the books. My guess is that bellicose Republicans these days would not raise taxes to do all the fighting they want Americans to do.

I am utterly convinced that innocent people have been put to death for crimes they didn't commit. The state of Texas comes

most prominently to mind. More than one Republican governor of that state has burnished his law and order credentials by carrying through with executions when doubt of guilt remained.

It is primarily Republicans who have battled against common sense laws to control the purchasing of firearms.

I thought foreign policy was under the purview of the Presidency. Now we have the speaker of the House inviting a head of State to address the Congress and Republican senators writing to the Iranian government to try to torpedo a possible future deal on Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Internationally Republicans never seem to appreciate the enormous humanitarian work done by the United Nations. In fact to many, the United Nations is anathema.

I can understand being against illegal immigration. But hatred of "the other" seems to be a prime motivating factor among a certain segment of Republicans.

Republicans tout freedom and liberty up the wazoo. Yet they want to make laws about the most private aspects of our lives.

They use religion and patriotism as clubs to denigrate non-believers and those who out of patriotism are critical of certain U.S. policies or who think that sometimes America has not been all that "exceptional".

I know many wonderful Republicans. I think they must cringe almost every day.

###

Roger Bell, RADC Vice President, and Founding Board Member, Redlands Sustainability Network, offered his voice to report on the recently held Redlands Sustainability Festival...

The third annual Sustainability Festival was held on Sat., March 14, on the University of Redlands campus. Close to 50 exhibitors, including our Club (which was also for the third straight year a sponsor) participated on a warm, sparkling day.

We estimate there were about 1000 attendees, including some kids whose amazing art work was prominently displayed. There was great music, food trucks, face painting, balloons, a bicycle that blended smoothies, native plants, health information, electric motorcycles, kid crafts, green building and solar energy advice, students for environmental action, farmers, safe pesticide info, climate change groups, you name it. It was indeed a festive occasion with something for everyone to savor and learn about and have great fun exploring. I am blown away to realize what is going on just beneath the surface of our community, some more well known, but others in nooks and crannies you might not expect nor know about previously.

Not surprisingly, we all concur: the Festival was hugely successful! I spoke with many exhibitors and student participants who had volunteered their time and talents, and received near unanimous enthusiastic endorsement of the event as well as the noble mission of RSN. They represented a wide spectrum of businesses and non-profit organizations who are, in so many unique ways, contributing to making Redlands exceptional, even perhaps a model for what a sustainable community might become.

The Redlands Sustainability Network is near and dear to my heart and enjoys active contributions of several other RADC members. Our mission is to help build a network of folks who want to encourage environmentally sustainable practices, while also contributing toward economic value and social equity. Our Steering Committee, distinctly grassroots, was organized partly in response to a City Council adopted Sustainability Plan several years ago; we want to further that ambitious effort and engage citizens and the University in other ways that enhance our commons and personal lives.

A fair question to ask is why should RADC make this event and sustainability a high priority? There are many ways to demonstrate our commitments and political efforts, so why should this be something we go out of our way to support? In short, why do we care?

Well, a quick answer is because climate change activism is in our DNA and also it's a significant platform of the Party. And because we agree that global efforts start at home, that all politics is first and foremost local. We want to contribute to a better community and a lasting planetary environment, for our grandkids and their grandkids, and feel blessed that Democrats are at the forefront of this movement.



Thanks everyone!

Potpourri

SALON: According to Wikipedia, a 'salon' is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation.

Well, one member of RADC, Dianne Landeros, is that 'inspiring host' who holds a Salon every Thursday morning (unless otherwise notified) in her home from 10:30 a.m. 'til 12:30 p.m. If you enjoy lively political discussions, the Salon is the place to be.

Please contact Dianne for more information or email redlandsdems@gmail.com.

###

Local ceremony held

On March 8 California Secretary of State Alex Padilla 'informally' swore in Pete Aguilar as the Congressional Representative for District 31 (Pete was formally sworn into office during a January 6 ceremony in Washington, D.C). The event was held at San Manuel Stadium. Redlands Mayor Paul Foster served as master of ceremonies.

Joining in the festivities were some very proud members of RADC shown below: L-R: George Alfano, President Kristin Washington, Dianne Landeros, Pete Aguilar, and John Coley.



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NOTE TO GOVERNOR BROWN:

We know that California has reached severe drought status. Here's another great way to save water.



Our Website and Facebook page

RADC Secretary Christine Roque has done a beautiful job developing and maintaining our club's Website. Please visit it at <http://redlandsdemocrats.org> to keep informed. Christine has made many positive changes.

About our Facebook page(s), there appears to be two. One is **Redlands Dems** (the newest one) and the older one is **Redlands Area Democratic Club**. For the old one, we do not have the administrative password to make critical changes but you can still post articles and other information there. The newer one would be the best one to use.



Regardless, go to both to upload articles and pictures. This gives us 'double' exposure. If you are a Facebook user, you can help by posting articles counter to what appears on the Redlands Tea Party Patriots pages—sickening!

If this sounds too confusing to you, please be patient, as we are working to maintain just one Facebook page. **If you have skills in this area, please speak up!** Make sure you 'LIKE' us on both pages. For the old page, Google "Redlands Area Democratic Club on Facebook". For the newest page, Google "Redlands Dems on Facebook".

Below is the top of the club's Website page. Visit it!



Redlands Area Democratic Club

Serving Redlands, Highland, Mentone
Loma Linda and San Bernardino

<http://redlandsdemocrats.org>

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NOTICE TO READERS

Because of her schedule of late, Editor Ande Spencer will be on a brief hiatus from *The Progressive*. Carole Coley has agreed to perform these duties until Ande is able to resume them.

Please support *The Progressive* by offering your opinions on articles you have read, how you feel about today's political occurrences, or how this Newsletter can be approved.

ADD YOUR OPINIONS ON ANY TOPIC IN OUR NEWSLETTER

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Unless otherwise noted, editorials and/or articles that appear in 'The Progressive' are the opinions of the Editor and other named contributors and not necessarily of the RADC leadership or its membership.



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TRUSTEES

Nancy Blastos, Les Greenberg, Ron Hattis, Dianne Landeros, Christine Roque, Ande Spencer

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"The Progressive"

Ande Spencer, Editor; Carole Coley, Co-Editor and Newsletter Design

"All the world over, I will back the masses against the classes."

~William Ewart Gladstone~

