



The Tri-Valley Democrat

Tri-Valley Democratic Club

February, 2007

President: Ellis Goldberg

Vice President: Ellen Schaefer

Corresponding Secretary: Eric Swalwell

Recording Secretary: Sue Martin

Treasurer: Jim Kohnen

Newsletter Editor: Mary Beth Acuff

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 11886, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Meeting Place: IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin

Telephone answering service: (925) 443 DEMO

Website: www.trivalleydems.com

Jan. Meeting Agenda

IBEW Hall

Monday, Feb. 19, 2007

7:00 meet and greet

**7:30 Speaker: Janice Jensen,
Executive Director, East Bay
Habitat for Humanity**

8:15 Business meeting:

Committee reports

Discussion:

Should the TVDC take positions on specific national legislation such as HR 508?

Should the TVDC co-sponsor a peace rally in Walnut Creek?

Adjourn

what they hope is the center and carving cautiously at the edges of the box hoping to appear as thoughtful problem solvers.

My experience is that there is no firm center, that public opinion and support shifts. It moves toward that person who makes a confident statement of the issue, with all its perils and uncertainties but with a clearly defined direction to go. It moved for TR. It did not move for Wilson but did for FDR and Truman. It was inspired by JFK but was forcefully pushed by LBJ.

Both Nixon and Reagan are less obvious. For all the tough talk and belligerence to satisfy a surging right wing, both were following more progressive social policy under the radar.

It is only with Shrub/Cheney that we find a controlling, anti-democratic mindset in power. They cannot eradicate the popular support for a progressive social policy so they are changing things by fiat and by undermining the structure.

But enough of history. I am looking for the candidate who

acknowledges the Augean stables we now inhabit. Somebody has to stand up and begin to define the mess. Somebody has to admit cleaning up the problems won't be easy or quick or cheap or fast. And somebody has to say, first things first. Before picking up another tool to attack the stable, define an immediate timetable to leave Iraq and negotiate our way out.

Somebody has to say we have to pay for the economic security, the education, the housing, the medical care, the science, the infrastructure, and yes, the arts we must have to be civilized. Is it too much to ask that a candidate for President be willing to put herself or himself at the front of the parade?

It really may be too much to ask that one person combine the skills to inspire, to reassure, to appreciate history, and to recognize and be able to use the modern tools of communication. Such a person also has to be disciplined and willing to keep a goal in mind while negotiating among strongly opposing forces.

Even with a strong staff and a congress that's mature enough

Notable Quotes:

When asked what he thought of the President, Rep. Charles Rangel (D.NY) said recently, "*Well, I really think he shatters the myth of white supremacy once and for all.*"

Cuff links

By Acuff

Beware the stampede to the radical middle

The race is on. Candidates are planting themselves firmly in

to contribute to governing, one person may never be able to encompass all this. Look at how our modern presidents age in office.

I saw a column in the **NYTimes** recently that speculated that this country might be ungovernable. When California can brag of an economy larger than most countries and most of our states are larger than other countries and our population contains examples of all other cultures and ethnicities. The task of melding this incredible hodgepodge into a coherent direction may be more than a single leader can do.

Morphing into a regional system might be a practical approach. We seem to be moving in that direction anyway. Besides, it is dangerous to confer on any national leader such awesome power as ours can command. We are reaping the results of that power madness now. Can the world afford it?

Tri-Valley Democratic Club
P.O. Box 11886
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Watch for this

Water wars will include Son of Peripheral Canal as well as demands for water storage on one side while the long-term health of the Delta will need vigorous defense. Keep in mind that “water flows uphill to money.” **Health care** will pit powerful egos against one another. For information on a serious proposal visit: www.onecarenow.org.

Get Active

Resolve to go to one, just one city council meeting this year. Plan to attend the Pleasanton council meeting on the 20th. Fred Norman needs support in his presentation of public opposition to the Iraq war.

Raise a glass to Molly Ivins, a fearless champion of fair government, expanded opportunity, civil liberties and a good glass of beer to wash it down.

**Come participate Monday, Feb. 19
IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway,
Dublin, 7:00 P.M.**



Quick Calendar:

Feb. film at the IBEW is *The War Tapes*, Sat. Feb 24, 7 pm. see the TVDC website for the latest group meetings.

www.trivalleydems.com

The Political Book Club meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Livermore Library, 7 pm.

Membership Form

- \$30. household memberships
- \$20. individual membership
- \$10. student/ senior

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

