



The Tri-Valley Democrat

Tri-Valley Democratic Club

May, 2007

President: Ellis Goldberg

Vice President: Ellen Schaefer

Corresponding Secretary: Eric Swalwell

Recording Secretary: Sue Martin

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Meeting Place: IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin

Telephone answering service: (925) 443 DEMO

Website: www.trivalleydems.com

May Meeting Agenda

IBEW Hall

Monday, May 21, 2007

7:00 meet and greet

7:15 Business Meeting

Committee Reports

Precinct Service – Ellen

Financial Report – Jim

Activities – Ellis

New Business

8:00 Speaker:

Dr. Jack Rasmus, union organizer

and author of, *The War at Home,*

The Corporate Offensive from Ronald

Reagan to George Bush

Q&A – discussion

Adjourn

TVDC Gets Active

Aside from our regular meetings several members have been involved in other TVDC activities. A group of TVDC members attended and had a table at Las Positas College Club Day. They told students about TVDC and invited them to meetings and Saturday Night at the IBEW movies. Members, *Fred Klaske, Fred & Cathe Norman, Mellissa West, Dave Krug and Aziza Mira* represented TVDC at the event.

TVDC also had a table at the Peace Rally in Walnut Creek and were represented by *Leo & Aziza Mira, Dave Krug, Stephanie Ericson, Sharon & Ellis Goldberg and Fred & Cathe Norman*. We gave out

literature inviting people to our events and meetings in addition to offering voter registration help and forms.

Paulette Kenyon regularly shows movies at the IBEW monthly and consequently people check out TVDC, although the movie is not a TVDC event. She is to be commended for her good work in educating and entertaining the community with movies and discussions you won't see on Fox.

Many TVDC members attended the 2007 Democratic Convention in San Diego. I was pleased to see TVDC members *Bill Evans, Gary Prost, Ellen Schaefer, Tammi Reus, Sharon Goldberg, Mary & Jerry McNerney, Bill & Maureen O'Hare, Jim & Pat Kohlen, Greg Bonato, Robin Torrello, Marie McDonald, Angela Holmes Ramirez, Mellissa West, Stevan Thomas, Steve Filson, Chris Van Schaak, Joan Buchannon* and somebody I forgot to mention I am sure. There are many from other bay area clubs that I also saw. We are becoming a more cohesive bay area political community and it feels good.

We heard the candidates for President of the US, and heard Speaker Pelosi as well as Jerry Brown and John Guaramendi.

Particularly thrilling was Congress member Maxine Waters the chair of the Out of Iraq caucus and representative Barbara Lee. We left the convention totally pumped up. But the best moment was when Gavin Newsome was addressing us and Frank Quattro stood up to take off his coat and blocked Ellen's view. Ask her what happened next.

We have found that rather than having just standing committees to do this or that function; we can instead find volunteers who can fit TVDC activities in their personal schedules. These activities are not only useful but are also fun. You are encouraged to get the most out of your TVDC membership by getting active. If I forgot to mention you please forgive me.

Regards,

Ellis Goldberg

Club President

Cuff links By Acuff

Methinks the man doth offer unusual help too quickly
(with apologies to Shakespeare)

Stay with me folks, until I get through the argument, as disjointed as it may be. Then you can tell me I'm full of hot air and should ignore the man in the booth.

One of the literary detectives I like once said that the master criminal makes a great effort to dissociate his actions from any thought of the crime. In that light, I wonder whether the speed at which the Bush administration rushed to throw money at the damage done to the MacArthur Maze by the gasoline tanker might be trying to uncouple responsibility for damage from the oil companies.

I realize that corporations, particularly ones that produce damaging products, shield themselves from responsibility by layers and layers of protection. The oil companies and refineries sell to independent contractors who in turn ship through independent contractors who in turn often hire independent contractors to drive the rigs.

So the first public and media attention focused on the driver, then on the rig, then interestingly enough, on the highway, itself. All the while, the oil companies reap

obscene profits each quarter for the product that fouls the air, contributes to global warming, maims babies in utero, creates particulates in the air and that directly contribute to disease, to mention just a few.

Perhaps an administration, including a governor, who shall remain unnamed, that gets incredible funding from oil companies wants to direct attention away from said companies so that what happened to the tobacco industry won't happen to the oil industry.

Lawsuits tend to look for the plaintiffs with the deep pockets, Good heavens, what if the oil industry with the deepest of all pockets were to be held responsible for the damage it does on all levels. What fun!

Watch for this

What's with Sen. Don Perata? Not only is he calling for an exit from Iraq but also he is supporting AB 583 the Clean Money Bill.

Get Active

More often we are being asked

To contact lawmakers on both the national and state levels to support or condemn proposed legislation. The requests are coming from legislators, themselves. I wonder if, with the internet, we are moving toward "government by popular poll"?

Quick Calendar:

May film at the IBEW is *The Revolution will not be Televised*, Sat. May 19. The film follows how Hugo Chavez came to power.

Check the TVDC website for the latest group meetings.

www.trivalleydems.com

Membership Form

**Mail to: Tri-Valley Democratic Club
P.O. Box 1186
Pleasanton, CA 94588**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

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