



# The Tri-Valley Democrat

Tri-Valley Democratic Club

January, 2006

**President:** Gary Prost

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 11886, Pleasanton, CA 94588

**Co-Vice President:** Jerry Mc Nerney

**Co-Vice President:** Mary Perner

**Secretary:** Ian Selden

**Treasurer:** Jim Kohnen

**Newsletter editor:** Mary Beth Acuff

**Meeting Place:** IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin

**Telephone answering service:** (925) 443 DEMO

**Website:** www.trivalleydems.com

## Why I Am a Democrat

I uphold the Constitution to which **all** citizens and **all** branches of government in the United States are subject. Anon, TVDC website.

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George Bush, 12/2005 "I don't give a goddamn. I'm the President and Commander-in-Chief. Do it my way", he replied to GOP leaders in conference as they advised him not to push the most unconstitutional provisions of the Patriot Act.

## *President's Message*

### Victories achieved and challenges ahead

By Ian Selden

Tri-Valley Democrats began 2005 thinking we'd have time to rest from 2004 and build for 2006. It was supposed to be an "off year" with no major races. Instead, we found ourselves under attack from Governor Schwarzenegger and his special interest special election.

The Terminator sought to attack Democrats with ballot measures that attacked teachers, attacked public union workers, attacked working families, attacked a woman's right to choose, attacked constitutional checks and balances.

So we fought. And we won. We beat the Governor across the board, defeating each and every one of his attacks on our Democratic values.

Thanks to Arnold, we head into 2006 with a new and improved political climate for California Democrats.

For the New Year, we have bold ambitions. We want to oust Richard Pombo from the U.S. House, knock Guy Houston out of the State Assembly, and send Arnold back to his Pacific Palisades mansion.

Our Club should set its collective focus on three simple yet important goals: 1) Have great monthly meetings that educate and inspire our current membership and attract new members with interesting speakers and compelling topics;

2) Build our Club's visibility. We should be at the street fairs, the Rodeo, the wine festivals, and in the newspaper and on the community cable channel. We should operate in the spotlight, not in the shadows.

3) We must build our base at the grassroots. We put in place the foundation for a permanent precinct captain program.

In 2006, we should dedicate ourselves to building a Democratic machine in the Tri-Valley.

So last year was the off year that wasn't. Let's savor our victory, and then store that energy for even greater fights and greater successes in the New Year.

## January Meeting Agenda.

Monday, Jan. 16, 2006

*Election of officers  
Planning for 2006*

**Call to Order 7:00 p.m.**

**Introductions**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Old Business**

Election

**Committee Meetings and Reports**

Member Forum

**New Business**

**Adjourn**

## Proposed Slate of Officers

**President:** Ian Selden

**Vice President:** Ellen Schaefer

**Recording Secretary:** Sue Martin

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Rich Halket

**Treasurer:** Jim Kohnen

## Issues

### Pombo makes NY Times, again As well as local papers

Fallout from the Abramoff influence peddling plea has caught Pombo with his hand out. What's more another layer to the influence empire involves Pombo even more clearly. Another lobbying firm established by an aide to Abramoff

has been spreading money around on some key issues. It seems our congressman has been accepting donations and attempting to influence voting as the result. The paper trail is getting hotter.

**Clean Money Legislation for California**

Lori Hancock’s bill, SB 583 to finance California’s elections with public money is gaining momentum as state-wide meetings promote the bill. The League of Women Voters has thrown support behind SB 583, given the publicity of the multiple corruption scandals; maybe clean money’s time has come.

**Full Page Ads hint at impeaching Bush**

The ACLU has taken a full-page ad in the **NYTimes** clearly stating that the Bush administration has broken the law by spying on US citizens within the country. Not only that but the **Contra Costa Times**,

Senator Barbara Boxer is asking for support for her organization called PAC for Change to investigate illegal wiretaps, other Constitutional violations and our whole foreign policy position. Looks like another bandwagon is rolling.

**Water again**

**In his** great “let’s all work together to improve California speech, the Governor talked about strengthening levees and building dams but said not a word about the massive environmental damage being done to the source of all our water, the Delta. This is an issue that cannot be buried. The health and sustainability of the Delta is critical to the whole state.

Candidate’s websites:

**Liz Figueroa**  
[www.lizfigueroa2006.com](http://www.lizfigueroa2006.com)

**Jerry McNerney**  
[www.jerrymcnerney.org](http://www.jerrymcnerney.org)

**Steve Filson**  
[www.filsonforcongress.com](http://www.filsonforcongress.com)

**Johan Klehs**  
[www.klehsofrenate.com](http://www.klehsofrenate.com)

ACLU will give you e-mail access to Congress and the Senate. Go to: [www.ACLU.org](http://www.ACLU.org)

**Membership Form**

\$30 household memberships \_\_\_\_\_

\$20. individual membership \_\_\_\_\_

\$10. student/ senior \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Remember next meeting**  
**Mon. Nov. 21, 7 pm. IBEW Hall,**  
**6250 Village Parkway, Dublin**

Another story in the **NY Times** on Oct. 30 echoes a topic I began hardly a liberal paper ran an editorial saying such spying was against the law. And our own

**Get Active**

**Quick Calendar:**  
**Films** at IBEW, Jan. 28 *The Wal-Mart Movie: High Cost of Low Price*, snack 6:30 p.m., film at 7.