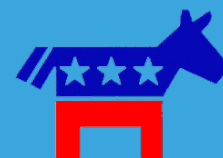




La Mesa – Foothills
Democratic Club

July 2022

THE PROGRESSIVE VOICE



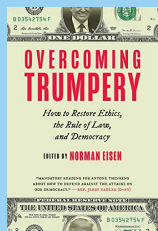
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JUNE MEETING RECAP: WEBER, GONZALEZ, PARENT CELEBRATE DEMOCRATIC ACHIEVEMENTS

It's easy to despair, looking at the state of the US today. Republicans are getting ready to repeat the 2020 insurrection, but do it right this time.

Three local Democratic leaders provided antidotes for despair at our June 1 regular meeting. Speakers were Dr. Shirley Weber, California Secretary of State and former State Assembly Member representing La Mesa and surrounding communities; labor leader Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, also a former State Assembly Member and incoming Executive Secretary Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, one of the most powerful labor organizers in the country; and La Mesa City Council member Colin Parent. They celebrated Democratic Party achievements over the past 20 years locally and in San Diego.

The speakers also provided hope. The national situation is dire, but we have made great gains before, and we need to be willing to do the work again.

You can watch the video of the event on our YouTube channel. Just search for "La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club" on YouTube.

Greatest accomplishments

Moderator Matt Strabone—a member of the club board and candidate for La Mesa City Treasurer—kicked things off by asking each of the speakers which of their accomplishments they're most proud of.

Gonzalez said she was proudest of her work to ensure farmworkers got overtime. It was the culmination of a 40-year battle.

Gonzalez said, "The reason it was so important to me—and important as a Democrat—is that it's the essence of who we are as Democrats, fighting for those who may not have power, who may not have any money, who may not be looked on as equals in our society. Fighting an uphill battle against a huge, monied industry." These are the people who pick our food, and this victory provided them with the same rights as other workers in California.

Dr. Weber said she is proudest of AB 392, a law

which changed the standard for use of force by police officers, requiring that it be necessary to save lives, not just reasonable.

"That was a major battle, because you don't take on law enforcement without a lot of heartache and headache and without an army of people fighting with you," Dr. Weber said. The victory wasn't just a win for citizen rights—it also demonstrated to legislators that they could support controls that police opposed and not have that support be a kiss of death for legislators' careers.

Parent said he is proudest of the Affordable Homes Bonus Program, requiring that a percentage of new homes will be set aside as affordable. It's a small percentage, starting at 11%—now up to 15% thanks to Gonzalez—but it builds over time. The homes are scattered around the city, to minimize segregation and give residents access to amenities. The city has seen 120 permanent affordable homes built since 2017, and those numbers will continue to build.

"It will continue to give dividends, giving people the opportunity to live in dignity, and live in a great city," Parent said.

Stand up and fight

On national issues where the American people have seen setbacks—gun control and women's right to choose—Democrats need to stand up and fight, said Dr. Weber. She grew up in the Jim Crow South, and her family fled Arkansas after her father was threatened by a lynch mob.

Cont. on P3

IN PERSON MEETING IN JULY!

Be sure to join us on
July 6 at 7pm
La Mesa Community Center
4975 Memorial Drive
(social time begins at 6:30)

The Progressive Voice is the monthly newsletter of the La Mesa - Foothills Democratic Club, serving the communities of La Mesa, Mt. Helix, San Carlos, Del Cerro, Allied Gardens, and the SDSU and other East County areas since 1984.

WHY DON'T REPUBLICANS VALUE AMERICANS' LIVES *AFTER* THEY'RE BORN?

Over the last several weeks, a grim and familiar American ritual has played out across the land. Family members in Buffalo, NY, arranged funerals and grieved openly as they mourned loved ones who had been gunned down as they shopped in a supermarket, for no other reason than they were black. In Uvalde, TX, church services, one after the other, centered around tiny caskets, as parents buried their nine- and ten-year-olds, who were shot as they sat in their classroom.

In a similarly ritualized response, most American people reacted with outrage and horror, and voiced the heartfelt demand that our government take some action, to do something, that might make these uniquely American tragedies less frequent or less deadly. But not all Americans. Republican officeholders have, as they do after every mass shooting, offer empty platitudes of mourning for the victims' families, while steadfastly refusing to do a damn thing to prevent or lessen future tragedies. Right-wingers are quick to condemn calls for action as "politicizing" the tragedy.

The risible and unctuous Ted Cruz excoriated people for "politicizing" suffering after a massacre, even as he himself would stand at an NRA convention two days later, doing that very thing. So apparently "politics" should not be part of saving American Lives. Yet we know for empirical fact that sensible gun regulations save lives. State laws that require a permit, with a background check, to purchase a firearm are associated with 60 % fewer mass shootings.

Similarly, research show that states with bans on large capacity magazines are associated with 38% fewer fatalities in mass shootings, and 77% fewer nonfatal injuries. And a 2019 study found that as many as 21 mass shootings in America could have been prevented by so-called "red flag laws," that allow police to take firearms away from people who exhibit threatening behavior. If the GOP considers itself "pro life," why wouldn't they support these widely popular and commonsense proposals?

Because the Republican Party isn't "pro life," it's pro birth. At the same time Republicans turn a cold heart and a blind eye to the public massacres of innocent black folks and schoolchildren, they are steaming full speed ahead to "politicize" when and how American women choose to become mothers. But their stomach-churning hypocrisy is doubled when one considers that, even as they proudly become the "pro fetus" party, they are simultaneously pursuing laws that disregard the well-being of both new mothers, and those same fetuses, once they've become babies.

GOP-led states are passing laws that will increase unplanned pregnancies, while limiting access to healthcare and programs for mothers with babies. The US has the highest

maternal death rate in the developed world. But as Republicans gleefully pass legislation to force women to give birth, they are limiting access the very services intended to save or help them. Federal Republicans fought the law requiring health insurers to provide no-cost coverage of FDA-approved contraceptives. They also steadfastly refuse to support efforts to institute paid parental leave, universal prekindergarten, and the Biden administration's expanded child tax credit to benefit the poorest mothers and their children. And the GOP-governed states that are most radically changing the laws to force women to give birth, are the same states the refuse to expand Medicare coverage, at no cost to them, which is how most low-income moms and their infants stay healthy and alive.

So Republicans tell us that we can't politicize the pain and loss of the mass murder of little children. But the GOP, at all levels, demands that we politicize some of the most difficult moments in a woman's life: when she faces a life-threatening pregnancy complication; if she has a miscarriage; when she must decide whether to give up a baby she is unable to support, or even to face having to endure a pregnancy caused by rape or incest.

That is today's Republican Party. An institution dedicated to protect the freedoms of a potential mass murderer, while actively working to deprive a woman of freedom over her most profound life decisions. An institution that professes concern for a fetus, but callously disregards the life of a

little girl in her classroom. An institution that claims to support a 'culture of life,' but willfully refuses to act to protect or value human life, once it's no longer ensconced in a womb.

It is not "politicizing" to strive to use our political institutions to end our horrifying tradition of institutional indifference to the mass slayings of our citizens. It isn't "politicizing" to insist our political institutions recognize the value of a mother's life, just as much as we value the life of her child. And it is not "politicizing" to demand our political leaders act to protect the lives and health of all Americans, not just when they exist within another citizen's body, but when they're alive and moving around, at the grocery store, or at school. If Republicans refuse to use politics for these basic purposes, then let's "politicize" them the hell out of office.

The La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club meets the first Wednesday of every month. Please join us for our in-person Club meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 6:30PM, at Harry Griffith Park in La Mesa, for our annual 4th of July Party in the Park.

For more information, please visit
lamesafoothillsdemocraticclub.com

By Sean Quintal
La Mesa Foothills
Democratic Club VP ,
Laws & Legislation

June Meeting Recap (continued from pg 1)

"You gain your freedom but then you have to fight to keep it," she said. "We fell asleep. We have to admit it. Freedom requires constant attention and constant fighting."

"We have to go state by state again and develop the laws that will let women have the right to choose," Dr. Weber said. "We can't allow people who don't care about children to win. "Our children deserve better than that."

The party needs to bring in African-American men in their 30s and 40s, who feel they have no voice in American politics, Dr. Weber said. They can't go to Republicans, and they think the Democrats are exclusively the party of LGBTQ people, women, and choice. Those constituencies are important, but the Democratic Party is bigger than that, and we need to get that message out.

Pushback needs to be sustained and consistent, Gonzalez said. "We have to win overwhelmingly—it can't even be close."

She added, "The reality is this shit is crazy. If we don't continue, in a sustained way, to go call it out, go protest, get arrested, to push it, we're going to allow ourselves to have it happen to us."

"We have democracy in the United States because people laid it on the line, got arrested, stood up to bigotry, hatred, and for law and fairness," Gonzales said.

Dr. Weber, who is an educator, says her students talk about what they would have done if they were with Martin Luther King. They say they would have marched, they would have stood with him on the bridge, they would not have been afraid of the horses.

"This is your moment," she tells them. "This is your Selma. This is your opportunity. This is what we're living for. Make sure that what you were given, stays."

Join us for the Party in the Park—Wednesday, July 6

Our July meeting is a change of pace, the annual Party in the Park, returning for the first time since 2019 at the amphitheater at Harry Griffen Regional Park, 9550 Milden St., La Mesa. We'll have music, speeches by candidates, opportunities to talk with fellow Democrats, and sandwiches, as well as a pie contest.

If you want a sandwich, send your food order to Richie Gibson at rkmgmp@att.net, by July 3. The sandwich choices are veggie, turkey, or Italian sandwiches, for a \$10 donation. Sandwiches include chips and water. Please pay in cash at the event.

Bring a chair, a shade umbrella for the sun, and water—more water is good, right? Also, bring a dessert to share, and a homemade pie if you want to enter the contest.

The party starts Wednesday, July 6, at 6:30 pm. See you there!

The La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club represents the communities of San Carlos, Del Cerro, Santee, La Mesa, Mt. Helix, Allied Gardens, College Area, Casa de Oro, and other nearby communities.

Monthly meetings of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club typically feature office holders, candidates for office, community leaders and subject matter experts. The next LMFDC meeting will be on Wednesday July 1, 2022 at 7PM via Zoom.

The Zoom link can be found at www.lmfdems.com/zoom. We hope to meet in person for July, but the final decision will be made at a later date.



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**We are organizing for the
November Election....**

JOIN US!!

Grassroots Organizing

GO Team
SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

UPCOMING EVENTS

La Mesa City Council Meetings

Tuesday, July 12, 6:00PM

Tuesday, July 26, 6:00PM

**Link for live stream available at:
cityoflamesa.us/247/City-Council**

LMFDC July MEETING

July 6, 2022

Meeting begins at 7:00PM

**La Mesa Community Center
4975 Memorial Dr.**

La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club

Claude and Beverly Cassirer, Founders



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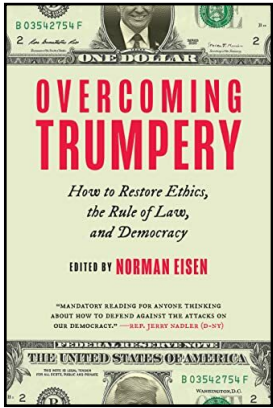
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DEMS DIGEST: THOUGHTFUL MEDIA FOR GREAT DISCUSSIONS

"Overcoming Trumpery: How to Restore Ethics, the Rule of Law and Democracy" Edited by Norman Eisen



Eisen, a fellow at the Brookings Institution, and former ambassador and Ethics Czar in the Obama administration, recruited distinguished scholars and experts to contribute essays that consider the many ways our political system is currently in peril, and what can be done about it. Eisen and the other authors use the synecdoche "Trumpery" to refer to the various elements of lawlessness and corruption that the former president and his adherents use to assail our political and legal institutions.

The authors acknowledge that there has been a profoundly regressive strain in the American legal system that has served to protect powerful minorities. For example, in the early decades of our post-constitutional history, there was no direct vote by the people for senators and representatives. That, in addition to the more well-known limitations on voting with regard to property, gender and race. The contributors posit that Trump simply exploited and accelerated some of these elements, while adding other transgressive developments, to create this current, corrupt philosophy of governance, Trumpery.

Eisen et al illuminate the existential threat posed by Trumpery, and offer recommendations for a multi-pronged defense of our political system. Defenders of American democracy, they contend, should think in terms of four

"boxes:" the tally box (passing legislation to protect the electoral system); the cable box (using the televised Jan. 6 committee hearings to explain the full nature of the coup attempt); the ballot box (working to defeat candidates electorally who are running to propagate Trumpery); and the jury box (ensuring criminal prosecutorial efforts against Trump and his lackeys continue).

The essays delve in far greater detail and specificity into the gravity of the threat we face, and the logistics of how we may protect our fragile democracy and our perishable freedoms. But for those of us devoted to a free, decent, lawful and democratic America, this book is urgently timely, and dreadfully important.

If you find something in the media you think other Democrats would enjoy - books, movies, podcasts, articles, speakers, or more, we would like to share it! Please email lmfdceditor@gmail.com.

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La Mesa - Foothills Democratic Club

