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This edition of the newsletter is pretty dense with information. The number of pages might be similar, but the articles have more links and there are fewer images.

## LAST MEETING



Our last meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of Alpine Escrow in the Blue Jay Mall. Our special presentation was from the [Rim of the World Educational Foundation](#).

JoBonita Rains and Marilyn Mays spoke passionately about the Foundation and the good work it does

for the children of our mountain communities. Click on their link for more details on the Rim of the World Educational Foundation.

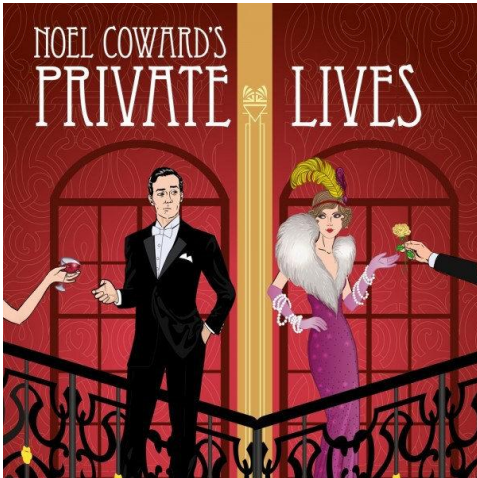
## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in the Community Meeting Room of Alpine Escrow, Blue Jay Mall at 7:00 p.m. No presentation has been scheduled as of this date of publication, so recommendations are welcome!

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# IN THE COMMUNITY

CSUSB was the site of a [protest rally](#) against hate on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Check out the ways you can participate to express your distaste for the results of the election on page 14. If you participate (or organize) a demonstration, be sure to share it with the Club for greater impact!



Tudor House announces Lakeside Players will hold [auditions for Noel Coward's "Private Lives"](#) Saturday/Sunday, December 10 and 11, 2pm – 4pm at the Clubhouse at the Tudor House, 800 Arrowhead Villa Road, Lake Arrowhead. This group of local actors most recently performed "The Rainmaker" to great reviews. Join in to share your acting skills with your community!

S.O.F.A. will hold its annual Christmas potluck and fundraising auction Saturday, December 17th, 6:00 pm at the Mountains Community Senior Center (675 Grandview Road, Twin Peaks). It will be a Potluck: Bring a favorite dish to share, and SOFA will provide beverages. There will be both a silent and live auction of great gifts for the holidays. Everyone will receive a free raffle ticket at the door for a fabulous main prize. **Live Christmas Music by Grits & Grady & Friends!** This is a wonderful opportunity to share holiday cheer and do some last minute holiday shopping.

For more information call Hugh Bialecki at 337-0705.

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# THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Before you become a political activist, here's a review of our [government and how it works](#) . . . NOT how the media wants you to see it. As a partner piece, here is a [history of conservative efforts](#) to change the course of our nation. Paul Krugman wrote this [prophetic piece](#) before the election, and much of the subject is before the Supreme Court and in the eyes of the public.

Many Democrats feel more allied with those whose rights are most threatened. But [becoming an ally](#) is not easy. To some degree it is simply not possible. Lots of people are talking about how our Party failed to get the voters to the polls. The reality is that we may have been [looking for the wrong voters](#). The Republicans are obviously trying to change the fact that 'white' is soon to become a minority skin color in the U.S. While that doesn't mean much to many of us, it is most important to some.

If you're looking to resist this change to a harder, less tolerant nation, nothing causes more change in an elected official's office than a [phone call](#). Here's the script you have been waiting for to [make those calls](#). Also the numbers you haven't kept track of . . .

Don't expect it all to be sunshine and lollipops – that's just not how it works! In fact, the degree of upset over the unexpected results of the election might be higher than over anything in recent history. But many have realized that there is a TON of stuff that needs to be done. While it might seem to be all "uphill" – this professor of philosophy claims that may actually be [what we're all searching for!](#)

Betsy DeVos is scheduled to become our national Secretary of Education. That would, to put it mildly, be a national disaster. See the history on exactly WHY [here](#). For more reference material on her and the Vice President Elect and why people who want to see separation between Church and State remain strong, read up on [dominionists](#) (both are strong advocates of that particular un-American group).

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# LOCAL CANDIDATES

## Scott Markovich

I would like to thank all of the Mountain Bears Democratic Club for all of your support for me and for your participation in the 2016 general election. Although things didn't turn out the way we expected, I felt that each one of you made a strong commitment to vote, be involved, sacrificed time, campaigned, and participated in the process.

The final vote count for [Assembly District 33](#) 2016 was: Scott Markovich - 56,070 votes (40.04%) and Jay Obernolte - 84,000 votes (59.96%).

I am very proud of my standing in this election. When I ran the first time in 2014 I barely got 900 votes. This time around I established a solid base of supporters, strong name recognition, developed a progressive, Democratic message, and acquired a much stronger sense of how to improve. Yes, I am convinced I should run again in 2018, and with your help, our Party should prevail.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a most joyous holiday. Take time to reflect on the past before we begin 2017 and use that to help yourself, your family and your country move forward.



## Dr. Rita Ramirez



My heart swells when I think back on the campaign and the many hours of care and effort each and every one of you provided. The 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District contains some of the best people in California, and it was my privilege to meet and work with very many of you. Though we did not prevail in the General, I will always treasure the Primary success, and I remain grateful for the dedication you gave me.

The hard work, joy and laughter we shared will remain sharp in my memory forever. Your enthusiasm has given me the confidence to announce that I will be running for Congress again in 2018.

Again, thank you and God bless you and your families during this Holiday season. May all of you have a very Happy New Year, as well!

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# CALIFORNIA POLITICS

## BALLOT PROPOSITION results

Of the 17 propositions, 12 were approved and five were defeated. Here are the results – along with the Democratic Party’s endorsed votes. See if your vote aligned with the Democratic Party recommended **-VOTE-** in California.

**-YES-** [Prop 51](#) **-YES-** Supports the state issuing \$9 billion in bonds to fund improvement and construction of school facilities for K-12 schools and community colleges. A school bond for repairing facilities across the state.

**-YES-** [Prop 52](#) **-YES-** Would extend permanently an existing fee imposed on most private hospitals that is scheduled to end Jan. 1, 2018.

**-NO-** [Prop 53](#) **-NO-** Changes the way California funds large projects. If passed, the Legislature will have to hold a statewide referendum (similar to this ballot) to determine if bonds or fees to cover a needed expenditure will be sold or assessed. It puts advertisers, opposing politicians and contractors more deeply into the process for responding to unforeseen crises.

**-YES-** [Prop 54](#) **-NO-** Causes a delay in legislation and requires televised and internet display of pending legislation. Supported by an influence selling legal firm, conservative coalitions and many demanding a smaller, less effective government.

**-YES-** [Prop 55](#) **-YES-** Extends a tax on the largest income tax bracket - \$250,000 per individual, \$500,000 per married couple. The money is aimed at essential services — primarily education, with a small portion for healthcare.

**-YES-** [Prop 56](#) **-YES-** Tax increase of \$2.00 per pack on cigarettes. The majority of the money generated would go toward increasing spending on Medi-Cal, the state’s health care program for low-income residents.

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## Ballot Propositions Results (cont.)

**-YES-** [Prop 57](#) **-YES-** a measure that will encourage nonviolent offenders to use their prison time to improve themselves. Prop. 57 will also put the decision of whether to try a juvenile as an adult in the hands of a judge — not a prosecutor.

**-YES-** [Prop 58](#) **-YES-** would eliminate the English-only mandate. Instead, school districts could adopt any approach they see fit to teaching English learners, as long as they get community input and ensure that all students master the English language.

**-YES-** [Prop 59](#) **-YES-** asks if voters want the state's elected officials to take steps to try to reverse Citizens United and related cases. Advisory only.

**-NO-** Prop 60 **-NO-** Once a suit against a movie/scene is filed, the plaintiff would have the right to find those pornstars involved, their real names, their addresses – the court would in fact compel the studio to give that information to the plaintive in discovery. Repeats a law in existence.

**-NO-** Prop 61 **-NO POSITION-** in California would be a major step toward reining in Big Pharma's prices.

**-NO-** [Prop 62](#) **-YES-** Eliminates the death penalty for incarcerated persons and future convicts in favor of a life sentence without possibility of parole.

**-YES-** [Prop 63](#) **-YES-** Prohibits the possession of large-capacity ammunition magazines and would require a background check in order to purchase ammunition.

**-YES-** [Prop 64](#) **-YES-** Legalizes the growth and use of marijuana for recreational purposes.

**-NO-** [Prop 65](#) **-NO POSITION-** Companion legislation to Prop 67 – a “no” vote completes a “yes” vote to the ban on single use bags.

**-YES-** [Prop 66](#) **-NO-** Reinforces and removes safeguards from the existing laws in California regarding the death penalty but keeps it in place.

## Ballot Propositions Results (cont.)

**-YES-** [Prop 67](#) **-YES-** Bag Ban is realized according to voter wishes from 2014.

**As of November 15, 2016, support and opposition campaigns had amassed \$494,528,869.72 in contributions.** The *Los Angeles Times* estimated that, between funding signature gathering efforts and campaigning, more than \$452 million would be spent directly on ballot measures in California in 2016.



The campaigns surrounding Proposition 61, an initiative designed to regulate drug prices, had more funding than those surrounding any other ballot proposition.

Together, the Proposition 61 campaigns had received \$128,098,546.56. Opponents had outraised supporters six-to-one.

A combined total of \$106,783,664.84 had been raised in support of or opposition to Proposition 56, an initiative increasing the tobacco tax.



Campaigns involved in Proposition 52 have received the third largest amount of funding, at a combined total of \$71,846,099.70. This is more or less to be expected, as there is a LOT of money being collected from people quite able to spend extra money on political contributions.

A consumer advocacy group contends that California refiners [are holding down gasoline production](#) to inflate prices at the pump. California prices remain at least 50 cents a gallon higher than in other areas of the country even though a major Southland refinery that was mostly shut down throughout 2015 is back in operation, says Santa Monica-based Consumer Watchdog.



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# BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

David Lazarus and the Los Angeles Times reminds us that we have a fast approaching deadline - Congress faces a [Friday deadline](#) to pass a bill to keep the government running. Lawmakers failed to pass appropriation legislation before the new fiscal year began Oct. 1, avoiding a government shutdown by approving a temporary spending bill to keep public services operating until next year. Republican leaders want to pass another [short-term spending bill](#) to extend existing funding levels into next spring.

This WEDNESDAY is the last day to enroll in [Medicare](#). If your income is too low to qualify for assistance with premiums for an ACA policy, you may be forced into a Medicare policy. DO NOT DELAY checking your income status and find out whether a [Covered California plan](#) is available to you. Enrolling in an ACA policy is the best way to resist the GOP and Congress' actions to destroy it. The next best, of course, is to [call the offices of your representatives](#) - and whether you like it or not, there are Republicans in office, and they, too, are YOUR representatives, so make them work for their paychecks!

Given the chance, any newspaper (and especially the wholly lacking in integrity TV 'news' industry) would chop every established agency or institution to small bits. So when the FBI was caught playing partisan politics, hacks and anchors alike were REALLY excited. They shouldn't have been, of course - this is more of the historical 'same' as the [Denver Post](#) explains. Even [Rudi Giuliani's connection to James Comey](#) is not unusual, even if it is too close for most people's comfort.

So like it or not, we've got a [Supreme Court](#) that's likely to become slanted toward conservative interpretation, A Congress (even with the [unlikely election of a Democrat in Louisiana](#)) that's firmly, if not overwhelmingly, in the hands of the GOP, a President who is so far off the normal political spectrum that he's somewhere between Benito Mussolini and a Banana Republic dictator, and an FBI that is about as reliable as a neighborhood gang in East L.A. The good news is that apparently the FBI is no longer on an active phone line to TV stations and newspapers - only Alex Jones and other similar right wing nut job sites are even pretending to have news.

## Business and National Politics (cont.)

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has this to say about the President-Elect's success in an [official release](#). Of course, there is nothing of interest to the orange baboon there. Not a darned thing.

Going forward past January (regardless of who is sworn in on the 20<sup>th</sup>) we really need to have better and smarter news consumers. Let's start with a [review and some suggestions](#) about handling fake news. Turning off the worst offenders (every single TV news program) would also help.

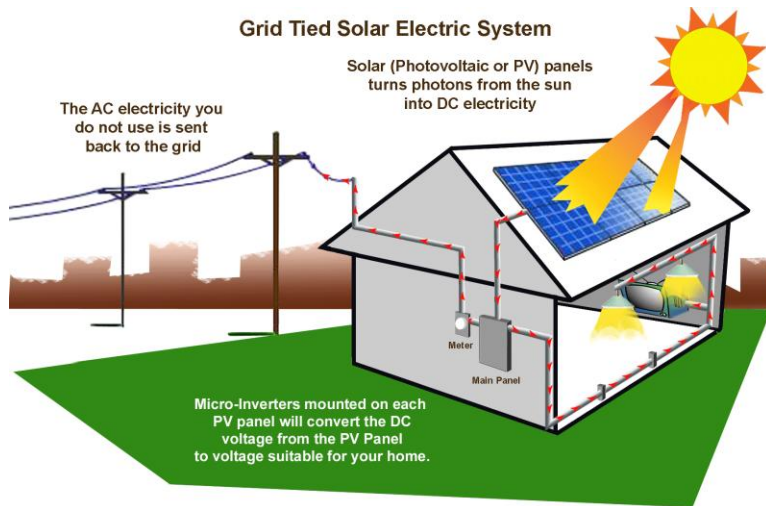
## California ENVIRONMENT

We've been working with our partners to correct an injustice in the San Bernardino Mountains. Nestlé water bottling has been removing tens of millions of gallons of water, bottling it for sale, and raking in Billions in profits. Profits they've used to fight any opposition in the press, by buying off influence, and in the courts. Every 8 million gallons represents the use of about 50 4-member families for a year. Last year, this foreign company removed 28 million gallons in 2015, but only pays \$524 per year. The [Nestlé suit in Riverside Federal Court](#) resulted in a decision allowing the removal of water without an updated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). It is being appealed, as this [Sentinel article](#) details. [The Story of Stuff](#) has created a [very well-made video](#) to explain the effect of removing water from Strawberry Creek by a foreign corporation. Share it widely to your friends, family, and influential elected officials.

Billionaire green activist Tom Steyer has promised to resist the anti-regulation and environmental policies of the President-Elect, as this [Reuters article](#) lays out. Mr. Steyer is also stated to have spent over \$30 Million dollars of his own money to protect the environment (and promote his own candidacy for Governor of California) during this election.

Some pretty disgusting facts about [plastics in the oceans from Vox](#) – and don't forget – 8% of all extracted crude oil is either made into or is used to make plastics . . . so Big Oil is pretty much plastic's "Big Brother" in this continuing crime against our planet!

## California Environment (cont.)



Mayors have banded together to push for a less costly environmental protection plan according to [Medium.com](https://www.medium.com). I have a feeling we should be watching these people for higher office slots when they become available.

Glenn Bland is a savvy businessman with a number of inspirational books, videos and performances that pump up the

volume around his brand. He also has a Bakersfield showroom for solar panels that is catching a lot of attention, as this [LA Times article](#) details. On the other hand, [Big Oil and its addicts](#) are trying to make sure that each step toward fossil fuel independence is as difficult as they can make it.

## THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW

This week, the US Supreme Court will [hear a case](#) in order to determine whether or not an attempt to restrict the representation of people of color was intended when district lines were drawn in Virginia. Most people wonder "Did you really need a case to figure this out?"

In another case that is sure to be heavily discussed, the ability of the government to [hold immigrants waiting to be deported](#) is being reviewed. This will directly impact the President-Elect's bragged about plans to 'deport Millions.'



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# THE PRESIDENT-Elect

Without a doubt, the reaction to the election on November 8<sup>th</sup> (without regard to party or even whether you voted or not) has been shock. Much of what has been said, written and broadcast is trying to figure out how in the world a reality show star was able to win enough electoral college votes to become the President-Elect.

Some would have you believe there is a sole industry at fault for the upside-down results of the 2016 election. That is as fallacious as seeking an individual to either blame for the results or rely upon for a solution. In an [interview with Fred Turner](#), some of the more popular 'causes' are addressed. More about Fred Turner is available [HERE](#).

Normalizing the unthinkable (in the case of our President-Elect's unspoken support of white supremacy) would not seem easy on the surface, but the United States of America has a history of [doing precisely that](#). Since 'the media' is for sale to the highest bidder, it will be up to the public to speak clearly about the true issues, and not the [fake news](#) being promoted.

So here are some reputable sources to help that discussion along:

## **Qualifications for the Presidency**

Ignorance of international policy and established treaties has been a problem for the President-Elect, even beyond the idiocy of the phone call from [Taiwan](#), a part of China that remains unrecognized as sovereign by the U.S. since the 1970s. His vote-getting [sound bites against the United Nations](#) alliance are starting to bite him back, joining a chorus of critics of his [lack of qualifications](#).

## **The Electoral College**

Not for the first time, the [Electoral College](#) has a chance of reversing itself and putting the winner of the popular vote (by a 2.5 Million margin and growing) into the White House. Its final vote (to be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>) is being regularly railed against by [pollsters](#) and media outlets, but it is still expected to be the final arbiter in the discussion. Were it to reverse the results of the election, the outcry would be astonishing. The [history of the College](#) has also received much discussion. Its intent (to balance the

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## The President-Elect (cont.)

[disparity of population](#) between the states and to account for unbalanced slave populations) is not what many hope – that sufficient faithful electors will reflect the popular vote and install Hillary Clinton as President. That is [not expected to happen](#) any more than were the results of the election.

### Verifying the Vote

Attempts were made to verify the vote in Florida when GW Bush was declared the victor against then Vice President Al Gore. It was contested hotly all the way to the Supreme Court. This time, many agency big-wigs are proclaiming that [Russia had an active hand](#) in this election, and even [Green Candidate Jill Stein](#) has petitioned for a review to clear the name of national elections. Even the President-Elect has [voiced his confidence](#) in the recorded results.



### What is peaceful protest? How can I get in on it?

The ways to protest grow, and the ways of getting the 'latest and best' ideas increases almost hourly. [Dissent Engine](#), Michael Skolnik's [weekly e-mail newsletter](#), Medium and [Redwood Girl](#) and even the respected [Guardian's detailed article](#) list out the many ways shocked citizens are reacting.

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## **\* EDITOR'S PAGE \***

This month the members and activists have created so much 'noise' that I really have little to add – except that I feel as strongly as does the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, when they issued this Official Resolution:

WHEREAS, On November 8, 2016, Donald Trump was elected to become the 45th President of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That no matter the threats made by President-elect Trump, San Francisco will remain a Sanctuary City. We will not turn our back on the men and women from other countries who help make this city great, and who represent over one third of our population. This is the Golden Gate-we build bridges, not walls; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we will never back down on women's rights, whether in healthcare, the workplace, or any other area threatened by a man who treats women as obstacles to be demeaned or objects to be assaulted. And just as important, we will ensure our young girls grow up with role models who show them they can be or do anything; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That there will be no conversion therapy, no withdrawal of rights in San Francisco. We began hosting gay weddings twelve years ago, and we are not stopping now. And to all the LGBTQ people all over the country who feel scared, bullied, or alone: You matter. You are seen; you are loved; and San Francisco will never stop fighting for you; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we still believe in this nation's founding principle of religious freedom. We do not ban people for their faith. And the only lists we keep are on invitations to come pray together; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Black Lives Matter in San Francisco, even if they may not in the White House. And guided by President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, we will continue reforming our police department and rebuilding trust between police and communities of color so all citizens feel safe in their neighborhoods; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That climate change is not a hoax, or a plot by the Chinese. In this city, surrounded by water on three sides, science matters. And we will continue our work on CleanPower, Zero Waste, and everything else we are doing to protect future generations; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we have been providing universal health care in this city for nearly a decade, and if the new administration follows through on its callous promise to revoke health insurance from 20 million people, San Franciscans will be protected; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we are the birthplace of the United Nations, a city made stronger by the thousands of international visitors we welcome every day. We will remain committed to internationalism and to our friends and allies around the world-whether the administration in Washington is or not; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco will remain a Transit First city and will continue building Muni and BART systems we can all rely upon, whether this administration follows through on its platform to eliminate federal transit funding or not; and, be it

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is determined to maintain the safety and values of the city.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That California is the sixth largest economy in the world. The Bay Area is the innovation capital of the country. We will not be bullied by threats to revoke our federal funding, nor will we sacrifice our values or members of our community for your dollar; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That we condemn all hate crimes and hate speech perpetrated in this election's wake. That although the United States will soon have a President who has demonstrated a lack of respect for the values we hold in the highest regard in San Francisco, it cannot change who we are, and it will never change our values. We argue, we campaign, we debate vigorously within San Francisco, but on these points we are 100 percent united. We will fight discrimination and recklessness in all its forms. We are one City. And we will move forward together.

The resolution passed with nine votes in favor, zero against.

I congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, for standing strongly in favor of justice and equality for all.

Glen Thompson  
Vice President, Mountain Bears Democratic Club

**Mountain Bears Democratic Club was founded in 2004. We are located in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. We hope to do our part to inform and educate the public and bring newcomers to the party by registering new Democrats. The Democratic Party believes that the American Dream should be within the reach of all people. We welcome and encourage people from all walks of life to join us in discussion and debates regardless of your political affiliations.**

**Mountain Bears Democrats website:**  
**<http://www.mountainbearsdemocrats.org>**

**This newsletter is published by Glen Thompson, with tremendous help from Club members for the Mountain Bears Democratic Club on the fifth day of each month. Deadline for publication is five days before the end of the prior month. Contact the editor if you need assistance or have articles of interest to the Club members. Any views expressed by the editor or contributors are theirs alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mountain Bears Democratic Club.**

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