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# **LAST MEETING**

Mountain Bears Democratic Club is dark in December due to the holidays and anticipated weather hazards.

## **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!

Do come to the meeting. One thing that will be important – to you – is that your discount of \$5.00 off your yearly dues is only available until January 31<sup>st</sup>. So bring your checkbook or cash and take advantage of this offer! Individual, \$25 (20) - Couples, \$40 (35) - Students or



Seniors (60+), \$15 (10) - Student/Senior Couples, \$25 (20).

Club officers have been receiving pleas for help in finding ways to contribute time and effort, become active in constructive ways, and watchdog our elected officials as the new Administration takes charge of our government. These and good and reliable news sources will be discussed at the meeting, as will opportunities for members in both local, county and State events and efforts by the Party.

## **LOCAL RESPONSE**



Don't believe that because you live in a remote resort area that the effects of a new administration will not be felt here. North Carolina has spent the last five years under the same sort of regime – a conservative dominated Supreme Court, Legislature and Executive branch. It hasn't been easy, so let's learn from their difficulties instead of having to do it all on our own.

Progressive sources are frequently attacked by right wing

propaganda authors and organizations. It is assumed these attacks will increase with the new administration. While there is yet to be an effective organization (or even a system) discovered and implemented the effort has begun as described in The organization.



implemented, the effort has begun, as described in <u>THIS ARTICLE</u>. A portion of another inspiring essay by <u>Chip Berlet</u> is available on our website <u>HERE</u>.

# ROTWNEWS.com

Guns and the laws that address them are specifically addressed in a number of laws that wene into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

ROTWNEWS.COM is a valued

source of information and updated news for its thoroughness and reliability. This <u>article on gun legislation</u> is welcome for both those reasons.

#### Local Response (cont.)

The article on Skypark at Santas Village and the <u>locals discount</u> is, also – but more because NOW we can take a peek inside the welcome local attraction that we all worked and waited for! You can always check with the <u>Skypark website</u> if there are other questions or the <u>Facebook page</u> for up to date views and information.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS**



It is NOT "alt right" – it's WHITE SUPREMACY. It is NOT "identity politics" – these are CIVIL RIGHTS. The continuous fight for the rights of people who don't look like those in power has never changed; it has only been hidden or willingly disguised. We must not allow that to happen as an administration with an admitted determination to change the

goal of this country takes charge. January 10, 2016 will mark the 50th anniversary of the murder of civil rights martyr and American hero, Vernon Ferdinand Dahmer. He was a civil rights leader, community leader, and businessman in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. In the early hours of January 10, 1966, members of the Ku Klux Klan shot into and firebombed the home he shared with his wife and children in the Kelly Settlement section of Hattiesburg. It occurred soon after he announced on local radio that he would accept poll taxes at his grocery store and take them to the Forrest County Voting Registrar, Theron Lynd. He offered to pay the poll taxes for those who could not afford them. In doing so, he was going up against the formidable Lynd, who had a reputation for failing most blacks on the literacy test when they tried to register to vote. For more, read the personal and compelling article by Joyce Ladner.

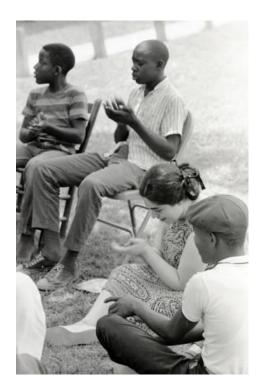
#### **CIVIL RIGHTS (cont.)**

SNCC was the only youth-led national civil rights organization in the 1960's Civil Rights Movement. As young people in their late teens and early 20's, they already had been forged in struggles in their local communities before coming together to form SNCC. Many – both male and female – had been accustomed to making decisions, under fire, as part of the leadership of their local sit-in groups. Their youth, as well as their experiences, helped shape SNCC's culture and its organizational development. You will see many references to the SNCC in this newsletter due to the similarities of our movements and since none of us wants to have to invent best practices all over again.

I shan't let fear, my monstrous foe, Conquer my soul with threat and woe, Here I have come and here I shall stay, And no amount of fear my determination can sway...

- Joyce Brown, age 16, McComb, MS, "House of Liberty"

In December 1963, #SNCC field secretary
Charlie Cobb proposed the idea of Freedom
Schools as a way of encouraging young Black
Mississippians "to articulate their own desires,
demands and questions." They became a central
part of the organizing of Freedom Summer in
1964. Read more about them here:



Our coming President may not feel that time spent helping others is of value. Fortunately, there are others who disagree.

http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/12/19/rochester-company-approaches-making-artificial-limbs-as-art

The 2016 election will mark the most successful year the GOP has ever had – not in giving us our President Elect – that is arguably the worst possible result that many Republicans could have hoped for. No – the high water mark was the <u>suppression of the vote</u>.

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS (cont.)**

Correcting past mistakes and preventing new ones, President Obama kept the new administration from using an <u>out of date database</u> to persecute Muslims. Kansas Secretary of State <u>Kris Kobach</u> (and current toady) was heard promoting it to our President Elect, so it is pretty certain he won't be pleased.

It is the right of the citizens of this country to insist that the President Elect is impeached and removed from office once sworn in. Honestly, it is thought to be the only realistic way to get him out of our government by many. There is historical precedent (Nixon) and a very smart article on the steps we need to take.



But let's not forget the incoming Vice

<u>President</u>. He's not as much of a cartoon, but he is as dangerous to our personal lives and liberties as any individual in our nation's capitol.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

As is typical of every Presidential election, the first response is a huge effort to discover how the results came to be. The losing side (in this case, the Democratic Party) immediately starts to plan for the next election, and some of the plans include not-so-subtle digs at the candidates and Party platform planks of the last election. <u>Steve Phillips of The Nation</u> magazine suggests we should be asking some different people for ideas if we want different results.



The Age of Information has grown some powerful individuals, and Scott Dworkin has been providing irreplaceable truth about the President Elect. The Dworkin Report brings a welcome level of investigation into the back room deals and dark money donations by our President Elect. His Twitter account is a daily dose of jaw-dropping revelation, too.

North Carolina's legislature is behaving like a delinquent tenant you evicted from your rental for constantly having too-loud parties and leaving trash all over the neighborhood. Since the people elected a <a href="Democratic Governor">Democratic Governor</a>, they're doing the equivalent of spray painting obscenities on the walls and gouging the appliances. But Wake County superior court judge



Don Stephens and Governor-Elect Roy Cooper managed to effectively halt the attempt to cripple the Executive Branch of the State government.

Mark Meadows (R) N. Carolina, is the Chair of the "House Freedom Caucus" (Check Wikipedia) and he's bringing a VERY disturbing list of regulations to kill and Executive Orders to revoke. You'll see a lot of overlap with the new Administration's list of nominees' positions. Scan down the agencies this group of extremists wants to disenfranchise. If you know anything about these areas, be sure to let Rep. Paul Cook know what you think about it.

## **LOCAL CANDIDATES AND POLITICS**

Saturday there will be a Democratic District election held in Victorville. From the list of candidates (which is, this year, healthy and welcome!) seven (7) women and seven (7) men will be chosen to act as our delegates to the Party's various gatherings. These are not funded, name-only political positions, but elected (some might say 'entry level') positions in the Democratic Party. The general public (registered Democrats from Assembly District 33) is invited to vote for their preferred 2017 Assembly District Delegate Candidates. The post on our Website has all the details.

No matter what the elected office, it takes funds to get it filled. That is the way it is and the way it has been forever. Returning to the group with fifty years of experience, here are some <u>fundraising essentials from SNCC</u> – and a not very subtle hint that in the future, your financial support will be required if we expect to see Democrats achieve and remain in office.



To my fellow Democrats, I would again like to thank you for all of your support and action in helping me with what I feel was a very successful State Assembly Run. During the month of December I took time off from my political activities to spend time with my family during the holidays.

Now that the holidays are over, I'm starting my campaign (Scott Markovich for state assembly 2018). We are now applying for my 2018 campaign number, and rolling over a \$1,500 balance from my 2016 campaign. Who says democrats aren't fiscally responsible???

The Mountain Bears Democratic Club initiated an accountability petition to the School Board regarding the way our club was treated and the handling by the Rim Schools administration of two situations; Club voter registration at Rim High School and Jay Obernolte being allowed to speak on campus two weeks before the election. As a result our Rim School Superintendent is being assessed for accountability and possible discipline. This is a good step by the Board that should help our district become more responsive to the community and the students. The local papers will be printing more about the situation has it unfolds. Thank you - Scott Markovich

#### **Local Candidates and Politics (cont.)**



(R)epresentative Paul Cook didn't have anything to say in his recent <u>newsletter</u> about the House – just that he was sworn in and had a picture taken with Paul Ryan (and his wife). Kind of odd considering the huge agenda of his party in this 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, don't you think? Unfortunately, this is consistent with his cheesy Chinese pins and cheap certificates for Veterans rather than honest work on benefits and VA upgrades that are badly needed. You can contact him by calling his office at (D.C)

202.225.5861 Apple Valley 760.247.1815 Yucaipa 909.797.4900 or emailing him (if you are a constituent) at http://cookforms.house.gov/contact/ to politely let him know you think his time should be spent on business before the House.

## **CALIFORNIA POLITICS**

#### **FAKE NEWS AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES**

What 'news' can we trust? Fortunately, more and more people are asking that very question. If you frequent Facebook, you should see this clear <u>list from Jennifer Dunn</u>. As far as the mainstream media goes, the very <u>few major corporations that now own it</u> is disgusting in its own right. For that, and a number of other reasons, many are turning to internet sources in addition to or even instead of once trusted newspapers and magazines. <u>FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting)</u> is a nonprofit organization that tracks a number of good sources.

Whether via the Internet or printed word, <u>The Guardian</u> and <u>BBC News</u> have remained at the top of many 'trustworthy' lists, as has the <u>Christian Science Monitor</u>. No outlet is without its bias, and even the stately <u>Wall Street Journal</u> has discovered there's more butter on the side of the 'Marmalade Hairball' (courtesy of the very funny <u>Samantha Bee</u>) than opposed to him. If you're a book reader, <u>Big Lies</u>, by <u>Joe Conason</u> is a NY Times bestseller and has been recently updated to include the newest tactics of the right wing propaganda machine.

If you intend to use the media beyond your local sources, prepare for a banquet of choices. Satire is a method for stress relief, and its welcome effects are . . . welcome. But <a href="know the source">know the source</a> and please, don't re-post it as fact!

#### RESPONSE TO THE ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE GOLDEN STATE

Some other areas in California know that a good, solid turnout at the polls is not a cause to take it easy, politically. AD-4 (North of Napa) has a program to fill every open seat with a Democrat. In order to do that, every community member who hears of an elected seat needs to at the very least notify somebody who keeps track and coordinates the effort to get them elected. Should the Mountain Bears Democratic Club decide to be the vehicle for such a support program, we'll need a volunteer to act in that capacity.

#### **California Politics (cont)**

"Asian American donors are banking on John Chiang making history in bid for governor," says the LATimes' Phil Willon. "In just the first month and a half of his gubernatorial campaign, which he launched in May, Chiang raised close to \$2.2 million. The overwhelming majority of his biggest donors, those who cut checks of \$10,000 or more, were Asian American business leaders and entrepreneurs. It's a list that includes Democrats, Republicans, venture capitalists, former utility chief executives and people contributing to a state campaign for the first time as well as longtime benefactors of Asian American candidates in California."



<u>REINS</u>. This is a term you will hear about soon, and live to regret if it is enacted in Congress. Essentially, it will remove the advisory capacity of a regulatory agency and power to act from a President (any President) to use that agency to control public policy. It is the quintessential "dumbing down" of our government, and it looms on the very near horizon. <u>The Hill gives a rundown</u> that may cause you to cringe.



Not just for women, but for the overwhelming majority of our population that knows this election was tampered with and the Republican President-elect is a disaster for the country. January 21<sup>st</sup>. Sign up and go, if you can. For more info, visit the website.

## **BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS**

The incoming Administration delivered a campaign promise, but there is no guarantee that re-working NAFTA or adding tariffs to Chinese made imports will actually happen. Remember when the 'drain the swamp' promise was expected to mean non-political people for cabinet and administration appointments? Patrick Gillespie (@Pat Gillespie) lays out the players and concepts standing in the wings, apparently chomping at the bit to tear apart our national structure for personal gain.

<u>Alex Mohajer</u>, political director for Bros4Hillary, tics down a LONG list of events (including the larger portion of the slanderous lies) leading to the mournful election results, and joins a chorus of voices calling for it to be reviewed and possibly overturned. His <u>article for Huff Post</u> (it stands head and shoulders above most of the trash printed there) is a long, worthy read.



Lead poisoning is not unique to Michigan, except that in Flint, there is now money to 'work on' the situation. Despite some <u>studies</u>, there is an issue still not being addressed – these conditions persist in areas with large percentages of African American or other POC populations far longer than in more affluent, predominantly white neighborhoods. This presents a

real opportunity for white supremacists to avoid confronting the industrial crimes that lead to the injury, and to avoid funding the needed changes to prevent them. While we fight <a href="Nestlé">Nestlé</a> and its theft of water from our aquifer, nobody should become complacent about our public water fountains and tap water purity.

Climate information is being copied to more safe storage facilities in Canada, and now . . . those pesky 'internets' that contain a working history of internet accounts, websites, and posts. Some of which might be interesting to investigative reporters (hint, hint). Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources has scrubbed language from a page about the Great Lakes and climate change, striking out setions about human contributions to climate change. Now it announces the science is being 'debated.'

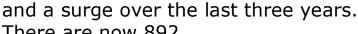
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#### **Business and National Politics (cont.)**

Nothing happening today is a surprise to those who've been around D.C. for very long. Our President Elect was implicated in the Iran-Contra scandal of decades past. Check out this record for his and President Reagan's mutual involvement then.

Hate groups aren't at the highest NUMBER in our country, even in fairly recent history. You can find out who they are and where they are with an interactive

map. The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) notes a spike that leveled off after the election of President Obama,



There are now 892.



The white supremacists have 'played nice' with the GOP for decades, and since the advent of the Tea Party, have been gathering support to keep 'those people' from voting – whenever and however

possible. How do efforts to suppress voter registration and voting by minorities actually work? This no-holds-barred interview with Greg Palast casts some light on that shadowy area.

As clearly stated in a recent article in The Nation magazine, If the

mainstream American news media are to have any hope of avoiding potentially catastrophic results both for themselves and for American democracy they need to change how they report on American politics, and on the ideological apparatchiks they continue to describe, misleadingly, as "journalists."



Yeah, we can play "the blame game" after this election, but since that has yet to actually lead to a 'better' election, maybe we could start to use some of that information that is just pouring all over the place! Tom Bonier's article in Medium is a call to INTELLIGENT action.

## California ENVIRONMENT



The U.S. Department of the Interior's environmental assessment, issued in May 2016, found that fracking poses "no significant impact." This assessment runs contrary to substantial evidence in the record identifying significant environmental effects from fracking, as well as numerous other unique risks

posed by offshore fracking. Attorney General Kamala D. Harris and the California Coastal Commission <u>filed a lawsuit challenging this finding</u>. The result will be a halt on offshore fracking if it prevails.

President Obama has taken what steps he can to protect our aquifers. By installing a member of the board of Directors of Energy Transfer

Partners, the company behind the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline

(DAPL) as Energy Secretary, the new administration has basically thrown clean water off the table. Citizens will



have to support any effort to protect our nation's water from contamination. Dakota is not the only target, either: The Trans Pecos Pipeline (TPPL) is owned by Kelcy Warren, billionaire and CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, the same company that owns the DAPL. Visit the <u>Go Fund Me page</u> to fight against the contamination of this portion of our country.

The Hour of Land, a book by activist Terry Tempest Williams, explores the notion that the creation of public land is inherently politically subversive, and that public lands – the "open space of democracy", as Williams puts it – offer staging areas to rebel against the pillage and plunder that have come to characterize our relationship with the natural world. National parks, Williams writes, "are so much more than a federally constructed reservation for recreation and retail. They are places of recognition – where we can renew and revive our understanding of what makes us human in relationship to the life that surrounds us."

#### California Environment (cont.)

(Jim) Olson represented the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation



(MCWC) in a nine-year court battle against Nestle that resulted in a 2009 settlement limiting how much water the company could pump from its four wells near Canadian Lakes in Mecosta County. Nestle wanted to pump 400 gallons per minute (gpm) from its Sanctuary Springs wells, but Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Root ruled that

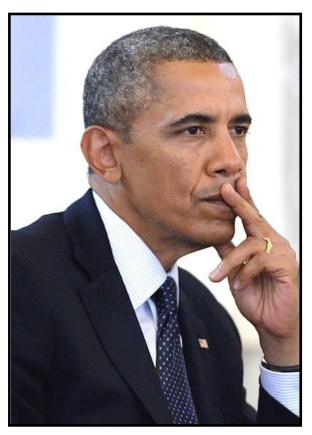
rate would harm river tributaries and ordered the pumping stopped.

In our own Mountains, on January 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a public meeting hosted by the League of Women Voters and the Water Management Board. See the article in our <u>Club Website</u>.

The case was a big deal. It drew national attention, influenced subsequent state legislation regulating large water withdrawals, and helped prod Michigan and other Great Lakes states to pay closer attention to freshwater resource uses. Nevertheless, these bottling companies pay next to nothing for the water they get from us. With the list of corporate representatives lined up to head federal agencies for the next four years, it will take a dedicated and coordinated citizen effort to change that.

Environment California has released a <u>report on the efforts of "Big Oil"</u> to slow or halt any effort to move away from fossil fuels as the chief source of vital energy in California. "America's solar progress is largely the result of bold, forward-thinking public policies that have created a strong solar industry while putting solar energy within the financial reach of millions more Americans. Behind the scenes, however, electric utilities, fossil fuel interests and powerful industry front groups have begun chipping away at the key policies that have put solar energy on the map in the United States – often in the face of strong objections from a supportive public."

## THE SUPREME COURT AND LAW



President Obama announced on Tuesday (December 20<sup>th</sup>) what he called a permanent ban on offshore oil and gas drilling along wide areas of the Arctic and the Atlantic Seaboard as he tried to nail down an environmental legacy that cannot quickly be reversed by Donald J. Trump. Mr. Obama invoked an obscure provision of a 1953 law, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, which he said gives him the authority to act unilaterally. While some presidents have used that law to temporarily protect smaller portions of federal waters, Mr. Obama's declaration of a permanent drilling ban from Virginia to Maine on the Atlantic and along much of Alaska's coast is breaking new ground. The declaration's fate will almost certainly be decided by the federal courts.

"It's never been done before," said Patrick Parenteau, a professor of environmental law at the University of Vermont. "There is no case law on this. It's uncharted waters."

A Club Member asked that this appeal be sent to members regarding the opening on our nation's Supreme Court:

"President-Elect Trump is floating around a list of potential Supreme Court nominees. And to no one's great surprise, each of Trump's choices would set us back by decades. We can't let that happen. That's why we're counting on President Obama to take action during the Senate recess and appoint a Supreme Court Justice who will protect our shared values."

If you're a progressive who cares about protecting women's rights, LGBT rights and voting rights, we need you to sign our petition today.

Thanks for taking action, - <u>The Progressive Turnout Project</u>

## 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. The results have caused despair in



those who are NOT women, followers of other than Christian faiths, or members of a minority racial group.

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 <a href="interview with Fred Turner">interview with Fred Turner</a>, 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 <u>doing precisely that</u>. 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 support or believe the <u>fake news</u> being promoted.

Many have said "Look to the children for our future." Especially in how strongly they oppose fascism in their country. This <u>article in The Guardian</u> describes their energetic rejection of the 'status quo' election of Donald J. Trump as our President.

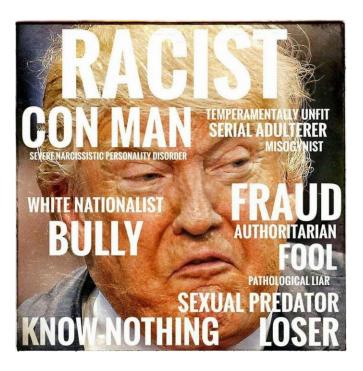


If you, like so many others, are concerned about the open attacks on Social Security, here's a <a href="White House petition">White House petition</a>.

#### The President-Elect (cont.)

#### **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 votegetting sound bites against the United Nations alliance are starting to bite him back, joining a chorus of critics of his lack of qualifications.





# 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 email newsletter, Medium and Redwood Girl and even the respected Guardian's detailed article list out the many ways shocked citizens are reacting.

The media in the USA has a job to do, and to date, they have failed miserably, at least in the eyes of older citizens who remember what 'journalism' meant in the past. The Nation published an article describing the general lack of faith in ALL news sources. A conservative radio talk-show host, Charlie Sykes, who opposed Trump in the election, puts it this way: "We have spent 20 years demonizing the liberal mainstream media.... At a certain point you wake up and you realize you have destroyed the credibility of any credible outlet out there."

#### The President-Elect (cont.)

#### POLITICAL ACTIVISM FOR BEGINNERS

"If Hillary had won," a friend said to me a few days after the upset, "we would be sitting here eating our kale Caesars and talking about amazing Netflix series and feeling totally great about our lives." Granddaughter of a German Jew who barely escaped prosecution under a fascist regime, Laura Moser has created an app for daily actions to oppose what she sees as an unacceptable incoming administration. Just text <u>'DAILY' to 228466</u> and enter your zip code for possible actions you can take. [Editor's note: I added this to my brand-new cell phone as one of the first apps – and I've not been disappointed at all!]

Former congressional staffers reveal best practices for making Congress listen. In a <u>PDF file</u> that's perfect for creating a 'To do list' to make sure nothing is forgotten, this group of volunteers has done a very powerful thing by compiling <u>The Indivisible Guide</u>. "We're doing this in our free time without coordination or support from our employers. We're not starting an organization and we're not selling anything. Email us with questions, edits, recommendations, stories about what is helpful at <u>IndivisibleAgainstTrump@gmail.com</u>. And please please please spread the word! Only folks who know this exists will use it."

As a recent update, this activism stopped the elimination of the Office of Congressional Ethics that was attempted just at the start of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress THIS WEEK. These actions WORK!

Twelve activists share their New Years resolutions and goals in this <a href="article/profile of powerful thinkers">article/profile of powerful thinkers</a>. They consider themselves 'the 99%' and they look a lot like you and me . . . the articles that follow aren't that bad, either, so scroll on down for some good new information and ways of seeing the coming year.

The New York Times had an <u>'on the record' interview</u> with the Presidentelect. I thought nobody would ever top the debacle that Bernie Sanders lit up with the New York Daily News last year, but this reveals a lack of mental depth that is actually quite frightening.

## \* EDITOR'S PAGE \*

I spend a good deal of time every day on the computer. It has replaced my old standbys: some CDs and a good book. Why? Because it is vital and changing and appealing in so many ways. Not everybody is drawn to the rapid pace, the personality-laden interactions that are inherent in social media. So be it – each to their own -but I think these people are missing out.

I don't mean the 'bump into light poles because your nose is in your phone' obsessive stuff – I don't use my phone for social media contacts. But I do have a large number of Facebook friends and a growing list of people I follow on Twitter. If I wanted, I'm sure I could spend entire days at a time checking out what people with different viewpoints have to say. Were I the same novice who first opened a Facebook account, the flurry of posts and opinions might actually be hazardous, though.

Social scientists are warning that teens are becoming addicted to an endorphin boost that comes with a "like" or a "re-Tweet" (or the equivalent on newer Instagram and Snapchat). Rather than actually meet new people and learn social skills that are invaluable in successful careers and lives, self-indulgence is becoming the rule in adolescents . . . of all ages. We see this even in the grocery store, where 20-somethings don't carry a list – they chat non-stop to an invisible person, presumably at home, checking the pantry in 'real time.' Self-satisfied millennials are being quoted as 'not answering the phone' to display individual bravery and strength of character. Instant gratification is 'trending' across all venues.

I use social media to get 'hot tips' . . . which turn into internet searches and (frequently) amazing new technology reveals or political trends that nobody else has heard of. I use Twitter to congratulate authors for re-discovering journalism and for standing up to public nonsense when they expose a lie or a scandal some miscreant has been feverishly hiding. I discover remarkable new talents with Facebook, and can get lost for hours on YouTube, listening to our amazing 'lame duck' President, Trevor Noah or Trae Crowder, then sharing their segments with friends. Music has never been so available and thrilling. My appreciation never so broadened.

And yes, I keep track of Birthdays I never could have remembered before.

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

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