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LAST MEETING

In Attendance - Guests: Marge Doyle, Helen Perry, Visitors: Kathy Peterson, Marylen Bartlett, Buzz Bartlett, Sandra Armstrong, Bruce Daniels, Jill Wootten. Membership: Scott Markovich, Judith Hansen, Jane Haren, Stan Haren, Mickey Laws, Yolanda Lyons, Anna Wilson, Karen Meadows, Helen Richardson, Dennis Cobb, Sue Walker, Glen Thompson, David Martinez, Leonel Salazar, Sybille Phillips.

Presentation – visiting guest speaker Marge Doyle is seeking the District 08 House of Representatives seat against republican Representative Paul Cook. Upon conclusion of Doyle's dissertation, a question and answer session ensued, followed by a 10-minute break.

Secretary's Report – While presenting a brief re-cap of Sept 2017 Meeting Minutes, President Mickey Laws pointed out that the Club Treasurer resigned at the September 2017 meeting, and that a member is being sought to fill the position.

Treasurer's Report - The current MBDC financial balances, as documented in bank statements, remained unchanged from September 2017.

Vice-President's Report – Changes to the 2016-2017 By-Laws are proposed to correct spelling errors, grammatical errors, removing verbiage that conflicted with Voter Statutes and the addition of an Article to allow MBDC to create an endorsement committee and endorse candidates and issues. The second reading occurred later in the meeting.

President's Report - The Nestle Resolution was submitted on October 17, 2017 and is scheduled to be heard and voted upon Nov 17-19. MBDC registered an additional 46 new voters at Project Connect and at the second week of registration at Rim High School.

Promotions and Media Report – A brief training on the use of Social Media is being planned. Those interested should contact Chair Glen Thompson. Articles for the Newsletter and announcements for the twice weekly e-blasts are welcome from all Club members.

Endorsement Committee – Additional members are being sought, but the minimum number has been attained. Construction of procedures and other necessary Committee tools are in process.

New Business – Dave Jones, currently California's Insurance Commissioner, has announced his candidacy for Attorney General. The Big Bear Democratic Club and MBDC will co-host a "Meet & Greet" for Jones. Laws presented a motion for approval of \$100 use of discretionary funds, not to exceed \$150, for co-hosting Jones Meet & Greet. 2nd by Markovich and approved unanimously.

The 2nd reading of the revised 2017-18 bylaws was performed by both Laws and Thompson who took turns reading to the assembly those portions of the By-Laws that are affected by any additions and/or changes whatsoever. Laws announced the final reading would occur November 28, at the scheduled general membership meeting at which time a vote for approval would occur immediately afterward. (see Potluck information below)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sybille Phillips – announcement. Lake Arrowhead Resorts is seeking contributions in the form of in kind gifts for the needy and homeless and offering free day spa to contributors. See Lake Arrowhead Resort's web page for more details.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 28th will be a potluck Holiday gathering preceded by a vote on the changes to the bylaws being read in consecutive meetings. Yolanda Lyons volunteered to coordinate the food, and members can e-mail her at classyyola@yahoo.com to reserve your favorite entrée, side or dessert.

This will be the final meeting of the year, as the Club goes Dark in December. The dues discount will apply through January, but 2018 dues are welcome at any time!

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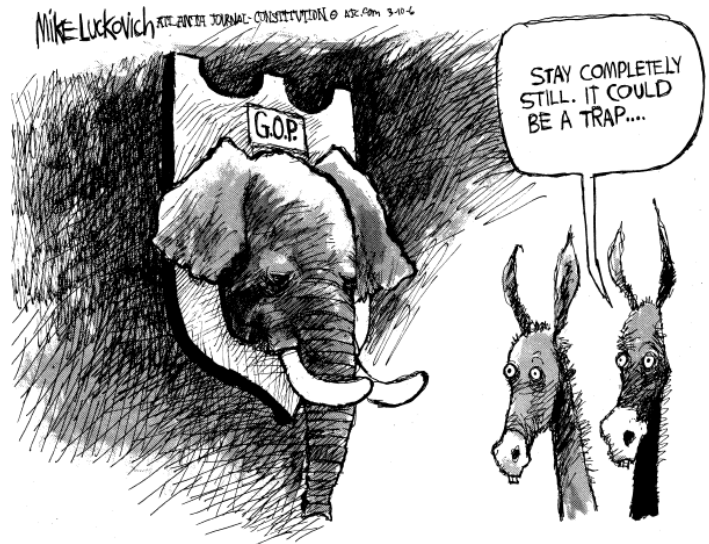
DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

[Fundraising challenges](#) to the Democratic Party also have an edge when it comes to philosophy. This is part of the constant challenge and improvement in politics – new and improved positions make the Party healthy!

The cartoon is clever. The punch line is that it was published in March of 2006.

Interim Chair Donna Brazile has released a gossip book. To promote it, Ms. Brazile [crassly attacked Hillary Clinton](#), but when the facts were out, the memo she alleged revealed a 'buyout' of the Party turned out to show that Ms. Clinton

was the sole candidate that showed integrity. It seems Republican tactics for self promotion don't translate well between parties.



Records are being released that show the [hacking attacks](#) against the Democratic Party were widespread. "They tried to compromise Hillary Clinton's inner circle and more than 130 party employees, supporters and contractors." A simple browser search will yield enough material to keep you busy for a week – at least until the remainder of the indictments are filed.

The webpage for the San Bernardino Democratic Party has not been updated since August 12th. Nothing more really needs to be said.

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS NEWS

California Democratic Party Statement from CDP Women's Caucus Chair Christine Pelosi on Sexual Harassment in Politics

San Francisco—California Democratic Party Women's Caucus Chair Christine Pelosi released the following statement responding to the growing discussion of sexual harassment in California politics:

"The last few days have made clear that the pervasive, demeaning and degrading harassment women face in political circles is a problem that goes beyond partisanship and everyone is accountable. We as Democrats must continually strive to advance equality for all. The bipartisan #WeSaidEnough movement started by Adama Iwu is a clarion call to do better immediately.

We stand by the coalition's call for much-needed reform, including the following suggestions for workplace procedures:

1. A confidential hotline to report incidents of harassment or abuse.
2. An independent outside entity, staffed by professionally trained investigators, to review and make determinations on claims;
3. Public disclosure of how tax dollars are used to adjudicate claims and settlements;
4. A party that holds candidates and elected officials accountable to promote and maintain a safe culture for all; and,
5. Laws that provide whistleblower and retaliation protections for all victims.

Our party should be an inclusive place where people can achieve their potential and make real contributions to a progressive future for our country. Democrats at every level must embrace a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and assault, from small clubs to our candidates to our national party. We must look to the best practices of private entities and adapt those practices to our own operations—things like anonymous hotlines for complaints and making sure investigations are handled by experienced professionals in a sensitive and comprehensive manner. And it's incumbent upon every single one of us to build a culture that respects and values women and the contributions we have made to our Party.

We are witnessing a powerful moment where women are standing up and refusing to stay quiet about the treatment we have endured for too long. This is how change for the better starts, and our Democratic Party must stand in solidarity with the amazing women driving this long overdue and badly needed movement." [*Back to top*](#)

CIVIL RIGHTS and DIVERSITY

This [video created by a teacher](#) should be seen by every person in the nation. With nothing more than an empty sports field and a group of average young people, the realities of privilege are shown in stark relief.

When people self-identify in a higher socio-economic category than the truth supports, having a discussion about Poverty is useless. Brookings has [this report](#) to help.

Once, Chicago had the most strict gun laws in the country. That was used against them by the NRA as gun deaths refused to drop . . . but the truth about the [behind the scenes fight](#) against those laws (by the NRA) is seldom revealed.

The [Brookings Institute](#) poses a question for the first time since the Administration of Lyndon B. Johnson . . . is it time for a Commission on Racism?

[Jaweed Kaleem records for the LA Times](#) how a judge in Hawaii has blocked the third attempt to block travel on religious grounds by the current Administration. #45 should have a toxic blood pressure reading by now. That makes many of us smile.

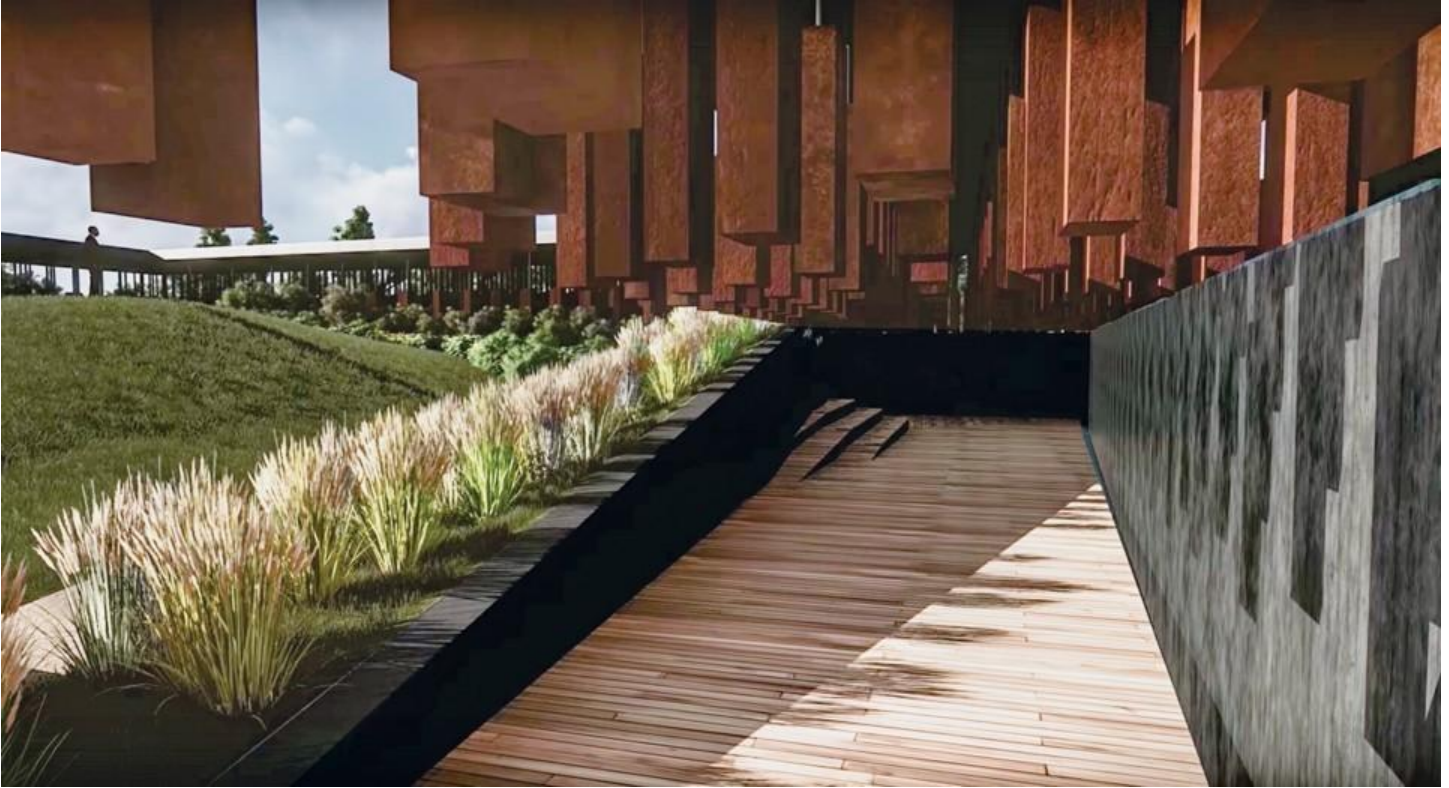
“Black Power” wasn’t originally intended to frighten the timid. It was a cry for equality and a voice at the table. This [SNCC Digital Gateway article](#) does a very good job of reviewing the history.

The fact that the LA Times had to publish [this story about child poverty](#) and its sources indicates that the knowledge has fallen out of common status. This nation was once the beacon for the poor and ‘downtrodden.’ That truly angered the white nationalists, and caused their cohesion, at least to a degree.

It is stunning that in the 21st Century there has to BE a group called [Americans United for Separation of Church and State](#). The founding fathers fought a war to keep religions from controlling the New World as they did in Europe. But here we are, so [Sign the Pledge](#) and let’s return this country to the Greatness it had in the late 18th Century.

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Civil Rights and Diversity (cont.)



In Montgomery, Alabama, [a memorial](#) to people who were victims of atrocities (4,384 recorded to date) will tell the truth about a dark part of this country's history – the lynchings of persons of color that were used to keep Jim Crow laws in place. The [EJI \(Equal Justice Initiative\)](#) states, "But truth and reconciliation are sequential. You can't get to reconciliation until you first tell the truth."

A [new report](#) is worth reading. Of the thirty-three companies surveyed, all offer inclusion training, and 82% of the companies hold managers accountable for diversity, but only 46% link their diversity goals to compensation. More tellingly, only 30% of the companies report setting "numeric" goals for diversity representation, and 42% set "percentage change" goals. We're definitely not 'there' yet. [Diversity Best Practices](#)

Private schools (and where allowed, Charter schools) are the source of a [divide between the citizens of the United States](#). It can NOT be permitted.

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WATER RIGHTS



Nestlé continues to claim 'no damage' to the environment in statements to the press, but the flows in the two branches of Strawberry Creek say otherwise. Another fine [Ian James article in the Desert Sun](#) explains.

Sitting Republicans are still claiming that the urgent need for water justifies the harvesting of water beneath our local desert. The [Cadiz pipeline](#) schedule proceeds despite outcries of foul play and lack of disclosure.

In the North of California, [Crystal Geyser](#) water is treating local governments like servants . . . and the local governments are behaving that way. Environmental Impact Reports were filed with unanimous support of the Board of Supervisors, despite [expert testimony in opposition](#). After public testimony the only recourse is boycotts and legal actions. Sound familiar? It should.

Water rights are being determined in the courts after decades of abuse by distant corporations, piggybacking on drilling and use concepts from the 'wild west' settler days, then slowly encroaching on neighbors. Wells are dried up, cities and towns are convinced to stop building and maintaining public drinking water facilities, and the ever-present empty water bottle slowly chokes our landscape and oceans.

Fixing this will require some to change their habits, and others to speak up, demanding that water bottling be seen as the environmentally destructive process it is, and that the true costs be paid.

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LOCAL POLITICS

The enrollment period for health insurance policies under the ACA has been cut in half. The advertising that reminds people to apply for health insurance during the open enrollment period has been cut by 90%. Despite these attempts to throw shade on it, the ACA still provides great insurance at a reasonable cost – or in the case of pre-existing conditions or illness, possibly the ONLY workable insurance. Most applicants will qualify for financial assistance. Use the [Kaiser Foundation's premium calculator for 2018](#) if you have any doubts. Spread the word to those who may need the help.

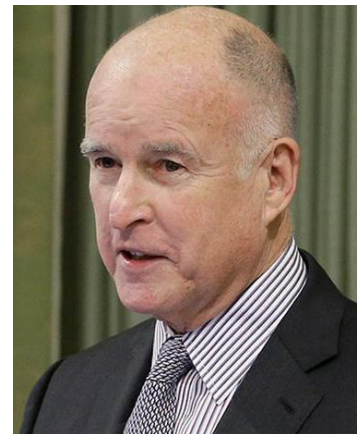


California retains a draconian attitude toward Nurse Practitioners. This [LA Times article](#) partially explains why this will hurt California in the coming years.

For more local news and good insight, don't miss the [newsletter from the Redlands Area Democratic Club](#).

"PUC schools" is a subject that brings a frown to the eyes of informed Los Angeles residents. Taxpayers there have been paying for a Charter School system that has been [increasingly under fire for dirty politics](#). [Careers are being derailed](#) and hundreds of thousands of wasted dollars discovered.

Governor Brown increased the number of students who will [start life with a college education](#). AB 19 will establish the California College Promise that waives over \$1,000 in fees for first year college students.



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BUSINESS AND NATIONAL POLITICS

There are others at this lofty level (a measurable piece of every dollar spent at WalMart goes to another filthy rich family), but [Charles and David Koch](#) should not be forgotten – ‘their’ oil and paper investments influence much of what goes on in Washington D.C.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has [publicly declared her candidacy](#) for Senator from California. Senator Harris’ office has already suggested we send money to her campaign.

There is no doubt that Global Warming and hotter oceans cause more frequent and more severe hurricanes. Except, of course, with [certain elected officials](#) who ran on the lie that there is no such thing.

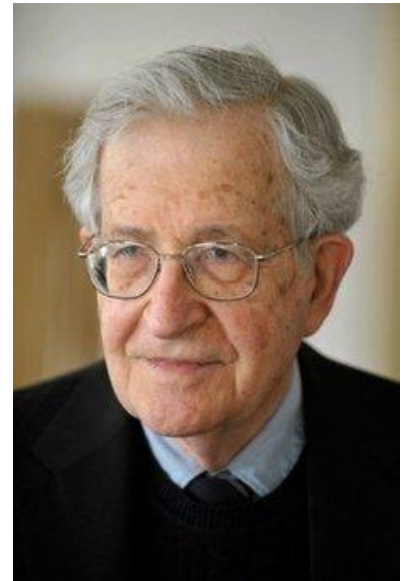
If every person who watched [THIS VIDEO](#) looked into just one of its allegations, the nation would have a better grasp of the reason behind #45’s disregard for Puerto Rican citizens.

#45’s Administration keeps trying to kill anything accomplished by the last true President, [especially the ACA](#). Congress keeps putting out “snooze button” legislation to give themselves time. It will be up to the voting public to give Congress enough public servants to out-vote the paid shills in the 2018 midterm elections.

Progressive candidates demand progressive campaigners, but is the Democratic Party going to benefit? An [article from IN THESE TIMES](#) claims it most definitely is.

Mike Pence protected banks by casting a [tie-breaking vote in the Senate](#). You would think he got his start in the banking industry. Oh, that’s right – he DID.

A number of distinct parts of an [interview with Noam Chomsky](#) by David Barsamian of The Nation are worth savoring . . . and saving.

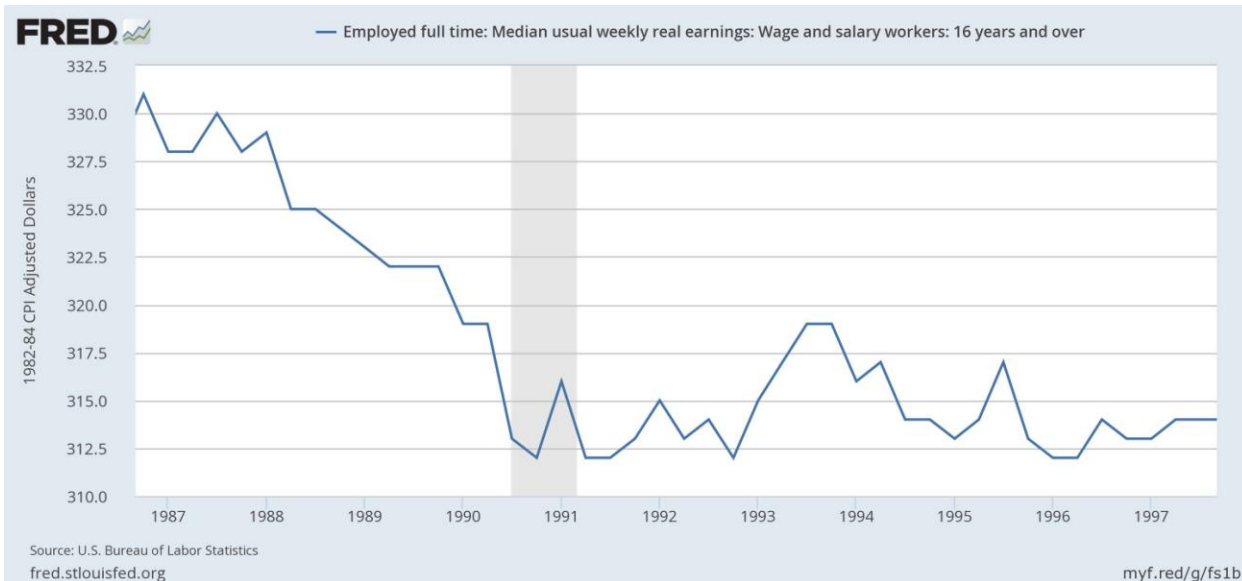


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Business and National Politics (cont.)

Do you remember when the GOP claimed the IRS had 'unfairly targeted' conservative groups? Do you remember the subsequent investigation that determined the liberal groups far outnumbered the conservative ones? Well, Jeff Sessions has re-visited this issue, and under #45, the IRS has 'settled' these cases brought by conservative political organizations. That means that the taxpayers of this country have been forced to pay organizations under the Koch brothers cash. Are you happy about this? Neither is author [Hart Williams](#). Remember – this is NOT a conspiracy theory – it just SOUNDS like one.

Grab a glass of water, because the [article by James Kvaal in the Harvard Law and Policy review](#) is "just a bit" . . . dry. But it is PACKED with information and great arguments to take to the Thanksgiving dinner with you. Oh – and lots and lots of footnotes . . . something we seldom see in the "Nightly News."



When your crazy uncle claims we need to 'give his tax plan a chance,' let him know we did – in

the mid-1980s. It didn't work. In 1986, the corporate rate was cut from 46% to 34% and real wages FELL for 10 years.

Union Busting had to see a 21st century overhaul – and it certainly did, as Joe Ricketts, the Billionnaire owner of the Chicago Cubs and TD Ameritrade founder simply [closed the doors after a Union vote](#) went against him. Not hard to guess where Joe stands on the GOPs tax plan, is it?

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FAKE NEWS AND RELIABLE SOURCES

In order to understand the opponent, it is best to listen to them. At least that is the method used by Ivy Olesen, when she signed up for a [Leadership Institute](#) (an arm of the [State Policy Network](#)) conservative bootcamp. The [article written for Alternet](#) is literally chilling.

The amazing displays of shock and awe at (reportedly Russian) propaganda using social media are humorous. This [LAWFARE article](#) reminds us that what we saw in the 2016 election was nothing more than what has been going on for decades. It's just that THIS time certain people and groups thought they could make it work for THEM.



Users of Social Media have been watching it be slowly encroached upon by obvious promoters of propaganda. As it turns out, one of the ringleaders in this effort, [Jenna Abrams, didn't actually exist](#); she was invented by a real life Russian troll, after watching "House of Cards" to learn about politics in the U.S.

If a politician (say an Assemblyman) who has consistently used any fee or tax to [whip up partisan anger](#) as a talking point begins to whine about a "gas tax" this far ahead of the 2018 elections, can we even ACT surprised? Is there good news here? Yes – there are only 25.9% of Californians registered as Republicans.

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Environment and Climate Change

A resignation allowed a high [ranking member of the Department of the Interior to rip a bandage off](#) the actions of Secy. Zinke and #45 . . . and I bet it still stings . . .

Senator Harris has [introduced legislation](#) to stop #45's rape of our protected public lands. This may determine how well she is able to arrange deals in Congress. Let's wish her well.



It's no secret that #45 is intent on mining, exploring for oil and otherwise developing the lands reserved for public use. One of his favorite methods is to claim that the Antiquities Act was used by President Obama to unfairly block use the public wants. The [LA Times sets the record straight](#)` ; he's lying again.

As this issue was being prepped, Congress calls the Administration liars on the subject of [Climate Change and human involvement](#).

SUPREME COURT and LAW

A year ago, the Supreme Court [set down a ruling](#) that looked like a "get out of Jail Free" card for corrupt politicians. That seemed like 'business as usual' for Congressional members making the rules and building in loopholes so they could slip through them. Now [a lower court ruling](#) indicates accepting bribes while serving in an elected position might not be so smart. For [New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez](#), this lower court ruling has caused a lot of worry.

The California Supreme Court [resisted lowering the passing grade](#) on the Bar Exam. Instead they suggested the education in law schools might be raised to improve the 43% that are able to pass the exam. Smart.

There was a big gun show in Nevada recently – and sure enough, [gun related deaths increased 69% . . . in neighboring California](#). This is NOT a States rights issue – it impacts everybody. [Back to top](#)

THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENT



If there is one charge that should put #45 in jail, it is his attempt to profit from the misery of disabled and sick Americans. The [recent executive order](#) halting subsidies for low income persons and allowing businesses to provide substandard policies would be all the evidence needed in a fair system of justice.

If that didn't do it, his [purposeful obstruction of FEMA relief](#) to Puerto Rico (arguably due to his ignorant position that Puerto Rico is NOT part of the U.S.) would certainly admit him to a cell.

While it might not be criminal, it is certainly not the way our country has EVER managed its place in the world. As of the first of this year, [FORBES](#) sees the United States of America is in the hands of a con man that has been mishandling his empire for decades.

It seems strange to give a weekly magazine the last word on #45. But it also seems strange that this [article in Newsweek](#) would be printed while the subject is still holding public office. The family of Warren G. Harding must be breathing a sigh of relief. Their family did NOT produce the worst elected official in history after all!

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WORLD EVENTS



Beyond our borders there are others dealing with corruption that has become institutionalized in government. From change at the local market to international graft, [Brazil's problem](#) is looked at through young eyes in [an article by Jill Langlois](#). The U.S. should take note, as we're following closely.

An independent judiciary is under threat in more than just the United States. China has yet to deliver one, despite years of promise, and [rights attorneys are feeling the result](#). Jonathan Kaiman's [recent articles in the LA Times](#) examine the repression in detail.

Political opportunists in the U.S. grab a headline from another country and try to make a comparison. "What Xi Jinping is doing is, he's really stirring up a Cold War mentality.... You're either with China or against China — and Western values, universal values, are against China," she said. In [articles about isolationism in China](#) however, (considering #45's stated admiration) the parallels are striking.

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* EDITOR'S PAGE *

From the Redlands Area Democratic Club's Newsletter -

Anyone who says they are not interested in politics is like a drowning man who insists he is not interested in water. ~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

Delia Warner has written a bit of a [rant for the New Yorker](#) that bears reading. While some may not agree with her assessment of the influence on the Democratic Party and the election by outsiders, nobody can deny we must rally and ensure the 2018 elections start cleaning up this mess our nation has become.

This month the Board of Supervisors for San Bernardino County is supporting the third annual Give Big program. The Club has heard from the Rim Educational Foundation and from the Mountain Homeless Coalition, two of the non-profits that exist in our community. The goal of Give Big is to focus the public's attention on these and the other non-profit groups that literally make our society function more smoothly, especially in times of stress.

Volunteers who help students achieve better educations, and others who help those whose lives are being impacted by homelessness will be more needed than ever as Climate Change impacts our global conditions. Refugees numbering in the millions are expected. Farms once capable of feeding the world are expected to dwindle. Industry and small businesses will be impacted, and the disparity between the ridiculously wealthy and the working 'class' will widen.

So homelessness may experience a sharp increase, and ways to keep all of us safely sheltered will have to be sought. Consider that during this 2017 holiday season, and give accordingly.

Visit the [website](#) today and make a difference for your future.

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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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