

# Hayward DEMOS

★★★★ DEMOCRATIC CLUB ★★★★★

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER

WWW.HAYWARDDEMOS.ORG ★ PO Box 56783 ★ HAYWARD, CA 94545 ★ 510-581-5169

## NEXT MEETING ~ February 18, 2011, 7PM TOPIC: PROJECT CENSORED

Learn about the work of "Project Censored", an organization that investigates and publishes news stories that are under reported by the media. Sociology Professor Peter Phillips of Sonoma State University and Mickey Huff, Assoc. Professor of History at Diablo Valley College will join us at Westminster Hills that evening. Professor Phillips is President of the Media Freedom Foundation (MFF), which raises funds for and works closely with Project Censored and other media investigative organizations. Professor Huff is Asoc Director of MFF and International Affiliates Coordinator. [www.projectcensored.org](http://www.projectcensored.org)

Save the Date: March Meeting – March 18, 7PM  
TOPIC: Human Rights Abuses in the Philippines



## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Club members will vote on an endorsement of the resolution below during the February meeting. An abbreviated version of "A Resolution To Support An Immigration Policy Based On Labor And Human Rights" is included here. The full version will be available during the meeting or you can request a copy by contacting Jim at [james.forsyth2011@gmail.com](mailto:james.forsyth2011@gmail.com)

WHEREAS: ...structural adjustment policies and other so-called economic reforms continue to boost corporate profits while creating massive poverty in countries such as Mexico, El Salvador and others, and that as a result, millions of workers and farmers are displaced and have no alternative but to migrate in search of work, and therefore will continue to come to the United States to work, join our unions and participate in our organizing drives, and

WHEREAS: our labor movement has called for basic reform of our immigration laws, and adopted a position at the AFL-CIO convention in Los Angeles in 1999 that demands the repeal of employer sanctions, immediate amnesty for undocumented workers, protection of the right to organize for all workers, the strengthening of family reunification as the basis of immigration policy, and opposition to guest worker programs, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hayward Demos demand that an alternative immigration reform bill be submitted and passed into law in accordance with the guidelines proposed by the Dignity Campaign, because it is based on protecting the labor and human rights of all people.

See You at the  
**NEXT MEETING:**  
Friday, February 18, 7pm.  
Westminster Hills 27287  
Patrick Avenue, Hayward,  
94544.

*Details Below*

## **2011 CLUB BOARD**

President - Mary Anne Reno  
Vice President – Helena Straughter  
Treasurer - Tim Forsyth  
Secretary and Membership Director - Silvia Brandon Pérez  
Programs - Harry Scott  
Chairman - Jim Forsyth  
At-Large - Ginny DeMartini & Mike Villalba

## **DEMOS MEMBERS HONOR MLK**

Jim Forsyth and Silvia Brandon Pérez (pictured below) were among the many Demos members who joined the large crowd to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King on Monday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. The annual memorial peace march is held by the South Hayward Parish each year to make sure that the work inspired by Dr. King continues



## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** by Helena Straughter

Black History Month remembers important people and events in the history of the African diaspora, and has been celebrated every year since 1976. US historian, Carter G. Woodson, designated "Negro History Week" in 1926, choosing the second week of February because it marks the birthdays of two US Americans who greatly influenced the lives and social condition of African Americans, former President, Abraham Lincoln, and abolitionist and former slave, Frederick Douglas. Woodson, himself the son of former slaves, and the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) because he knew the importance of education to enjoy the divine right of freedom. An ornament depicting his face hangs on the White House Christmas tree each year.

This year's Hayward Black History Month recognition events involve our own Club VP, Helena Straughter along with Black Woman Organized for Political Action with Lillian Litzsy, and Black Grads of Cal-State with HUSD School Board VP, William McGee. One event will be held at the Me Restaurant on February 19 between 11:00 AM and 3 PM and the other event is tentatively scheduled for February 26. More details to come. Chabot College will also be hosting an event on February 19, in the Challenger Learning Center.

The February 19<sup>th</sup> event involves Children's Hospital, Kaiser, Alta Bates, the National Marrow Donor program, and entertainers such as Brazilian dancers, African drummers, a tap dancing group, Hip-Hop artists, Spoken Word, holistic therapists and many more.

*"I try not to focus on being the first. I focus on being the best ... I can be." -- Alysa Stanton, first black woman to be an ordained rabbi.*



## **CLUB MEMBERS JOIN HEALTHCARE RALLY**

Demos members James Forsyth, Helena Straughter and Silvia Brandon Pérez joined the Health Professionals Students Association at a spirited rally for single-payer health care in front of the State Capitol in December. Two members from the Castro Valley Democratic Club, Sandra and Karl Hodges, were also there, and marched with us and the students, joining in their chants and waving our flags.

Senator Mark Leno, who will reintroduce SB 810, emphasized the urgency of bringing health care costs under control in the current budget crisis. Between chants and yells from the crowd of over 1000 students, union members, healthcare activists and seniors, speakers urged us to join advocacy groups and win the debate for single payer one-by-one at the local level and organize, organize, organize.

Participants came away from the rally inspired by the excitement and enthusiasm of the young activists. "Yes, we are up against a trillion dollar industry," says Silvia, "but we will win because Californians do care for each other, and we can no longer tolerate the injustices of insurance company-run health care."

## **DEMO EVENTS**

If you have events to list on the club calendar, please send them to MaryAnne Reno at [mareno1@hotmail.com](mailto:mareno1@hotmail.com)

### **ALAMEDA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

First Wednesday of each month at the San Leandro Library, 7p [www.acdems.org](http://www.acdems.org)

### **PEACE AND PIZZA**

Speakers, movies, and discussions, held the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm 1533 B Street, Hayward,

### **GREATER HAYWARD DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

Next meeting: February 16<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7pm. Firefighters Union Hall, 22734 Main St. Hayward, 94541.

### **CASTRO VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

Meetings on the 4th Tuesday on every month, 7p. Faith Lutheran Church 20080 Redwood Rd. Graydon Room.

### **TRI VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB**

- For the latest info, Visit [www.trivalleydems.com](http://www.trivalleydems.com)

## **OTHER EVENTS**

### **THE STATE BUDGET & IMPACT OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTION**

Speaker: Hon. Betty Yee. Friday, March 11, 12-1:30 p. San Lorenzo Village Community Center 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo. Sponsored by the Eden Area League of Women Voters. RSVP: Suzanne, 510/538-9678

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Locked Out Castlewood Workers need You. Support those fighting for affordable access to health care. Contact Sarah, [norr.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:norr.sarah@gmail.com) 510/502-5344 or visit [www.endthelockout.org](http://www.endthelockout.org)

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Want to network with community leaders? Use your computer skills to become a **Co-Editor** for this newsletter. Email: [saralamnin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saralamnin@sbcglobal.net)

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Help warm your neighbors this winter. **Socks and gloves** are needed for those who have been out of work. Contact South Hayward Parish's Hayward Community Action Network for details [haywardcan@gmail.com](mailto:haywardcan@gmail.com)



## OPINION: WHY DO THEY COME AND WHY DON'T

### THEY GET IN LINE? By Jim Forsyth & Silvia Brandon Pérez

During last month's club potluck, David Bacon addressed issues about immigrants from lands to our south. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which went into effect in 1994, has devastated conditions for Mexican farmers. In addition, repression in Mexico and Central America has created pressure for migration across our Southern borders. Federally subsidized corn production by US agricultural giants floods Mexican markets at prices below local production costs (NAFTA, ironically, prohibits Mexico from subsidizing its agricultural producers).

Legal immigration from Mexico and Central America is severely restricted. It is virtually impossible to obtain a green card or legal permission to enter the country. Immigration activists insist that any reform bill include a realistic path to citizenship. Moreover, in an increased concern about immigrants, municipalities continue to spawn controversial legislation such as that in Arizona, creating an environment of fear and racism. State and local governments continue to consider or implement proposals to turn police officers into "de facto" immigration agents.

In 1996, the Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act created new grounds of inadmissibility to the US by expanding the definition of an "aggravated felony" for immigration purposes. The definition was applied retroactively, so that even non-violent offenses committed long before passage of the law provided for the mandatory detention and "expedited removal" of non-US citizens, including lawful permanent residents, without a formal hearing. That same year, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act expedited procedures for removing "suspected" foreign terrorists from the US, allowed non-US citizens to be detained and deported based on "secret" evidence that neither they nor their attorneys could see, and established more obstacles to the granting of asylum.

Despite the fact that US policies and involvement in foreign wars and 'police' actions have created a flood of refugees, our asylum laws fall short. This nation is and always has been a nation of immigrants, but we have denied our identity as such. Despite economic policies which limit commerce in other countries, as well as our involvement in wars and 'covert' activities, we continue to deny entrance legally to the victims of our activities. Immigrants bring cultural variety and a great work ethic, and should be welcomed to our lands. The continents of the Américas, North and South, were settled by immigrants, and we owe a continuing debt to our immigrant populations

## MORE EVENTS

### VIVA LAS VEGAS

Lighthouse Community Center fundraiser. Games, prizes, music, and more! Saturday, Jan 29, 6-10:30p Hayward City Hall Rotunda, 777 B Street, Hayward 94541. (510) 881-8167

### YOU GOTTA HAVE HEART

Eden Youth and Family Center fundraiser. Music, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, networking. Saturday, Feb 5, 5-8p Hayward City Hall Rotunda. (510) 887-1146

### SOUTH HAYWARD COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1-4pm. Mt. Eden Park, Hayward. Family Activities, Resources, Prizes, Entertainment. Everyone is Welcome! Want to share information about your organization? Reserve a booth today. Contact Vicente 510/887-0400 x111 [zunv@haywardrec.org](mailto:zunv@haywardrec.org)

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP & KEEP HAYWARD CLEAN AND GREEN

efforts need your involvement to improve our community. For details: [www.hayward-ca.gov](http://www.hayward-ca.gov)



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Hayward, CA 94545  
TIME VALUE  
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**Renew your Demos Club membership today!**

Individual/Family-\$20/30  
Low Income - \$10  
DEMOS Club  
P.O. Box 56783  
Hayward, CA 94545

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Hayward DEMOS or visit [www.haywarddemos.org](http://www.haywarddemos.org)**



**NEXT MEETING:**

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**WHAT DOES "QUALITY OF LIFE" MEAN TO ME?**

*by Club Member, Marvin Burrows*

I was asked this question recently and this is about what I said.

"Activism" has improved the quality of my life because it gives my life meaning and purpose.

The "Purpose" is I want to do. What I can so no one else has to go through what I did when my life partner died and I was treated as a second class citizen. I was told I was nothing but his "roommate" after our 51 years together.

The "Meaning" is my commitment to give back what I have learned. Kind of silly but it gives me reason to get up in the morning and stay engaged with others.

Organizations that inspire me:

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, Marriage Equality USA, Hayward Demos, GLOBE, Equality California (EQCA), Human Rights Campaign, SF Pride, SOS Meals on Wheels, The Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward, UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

***Thank you, Marvin for your Activism and your Leadership!***