

Hayward DEMOS

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DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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JUNE-JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

www.haywarddemos.org

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP! Enjoy Content in Spanish and Other Goodies!



NEXT CLUB MEETING ~ June 17, 2011, 7PM

TOPIC: *The view from Labor: topics for Progressives*

Come hear a panel of labor union representatives, organizers and activists discuss the view from Labor. The beleaguered labor union movement speaks out on the Domestic Workers' Bill, Single Payer and other items of progressive concern. For more, come to the meeting!



CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE GETS THE GOODS by Silvia A. Brandon Pérez

Jim Forsyth (pictured at right) and I were among the "White House 27" - Human rights activists arrested on April 10, 2011 for engaging in non-violent direct action, calling for the closure of the School of the

Americas (SOA) and an end to U.S. militarization of the Americas. We were part of a 'die-in' staged on the White House sidewalk to call attention to thousands of Latin Americans who were murdered by graduates of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. The die-in followed a march of hundreds of human rights activists to the White House. The march included torture survivors, union workers, educators and students from across the Americas. Photos of the march, the nonviolent direct action and the arrests are available on www.soaw.org.

The SOA (a/k/a WHINSEC), a military training facility for Latin American soldiers located in Ft. Benning, GA, made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution. Soldiers trained at the school assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero on March 24, 1980, one of hundreds of documented human rights abuses connected to SOA/WHINSEC graduates. No independent investigation into the SOA has ever taken place, and Congress continues to sign off on millions in funding to the school each year. Despite a vote for transparency by the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Defense has prevented the release of information about the school, claiming "national interest." On Monday, April 11, hundreds of human rights activists converged on Capitol Hill to lobby their Representatives to sign a Congressional sign-on letter to Obama with the same demand.

The AFL-CIO, AFSCME, the United Auto Workers, the United Steelworkers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the NAACP, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ and over 100 U.S. Catholic Bishops all advocate the institute's closure. "The School of the Americas has left a trail of blood and suffering in every country where its graduates have returned," said SOA Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois. "It is up to people of conscience to stand up to the injustice and to call for an end to the violence."

See You at the

NEXT MEETING:

Friday, June 17, 7 P.M.
Westminster Hills 27287
Patrick Avenue, Hayward,
94544. "The view from Labor,
topics for Progressives."

2011 CLUB BOARD

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REPORT BACK – Review of the April Demos Meeting

by James Forsyth

“The heartless versus the spineless” was the way Norman Solomon characterized recent political skirmishes during his presentation at the April Demos’ meeting. The nationally known activist and media critic outlined two timely priorities for us. First, fight Republicans, and second, support progressive Democrats. He said that the only way we’re going to defeat the Republicans is by and through the Democratic Party. There is no strategic future anywhere else. It is up to us to give reluctant Democrats the spine they need, or to replace them in the primaries. Just as compromise fuels the virulent right wing, principled stands inspire a winning majority. An aroused movement in Wisconsin is recalling Republicans, and the same is being proposed for several Republican legislators in California.

Solomon announced his candidacy for the US Congress, if the incumbent, Lynn Woolsey, decides not to run again. His website is www.SolomonforCongress.com, and campaign volunteers and financial contributions are needed. The club has sent him \$100.00 as his speaker fee, and will be sending him a campaign contribution as well to his address, P.O. Box 150775, San Rafael, CA 94915-0775.



INTERFAITH VIGIL TO SUPPORT IMPRISONED IMMIGRANTS

Interfaith vigils to support and accompany immigrants imprisoned at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond (Contra Costa) are being held on the third Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM. Organized by the East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition, these vigils are deeply moving and meaningful, educating all, while providing an opportunity for prayer and witness. Congregations from Richmond, Pinole and Contra Costa County, Demos members Silvia A. Brandon Pérez, Jim and Joan Forsyth, and many others were represented at the first vigil held in April, as well as several elected officials. A video of the vigil may be found at the following link:

<http://newamericamedia.org/2011/04/faith-communities-hold-vigil-for-imprisoned-immigrants-in-richmond.php>

In the words of organizer Rev. Debbie Lee, "This is a very participatory kind of vigil - so if you have a story, song, scripture or reading to share from your congregation or community, please let us know. We want to lift up all the different voices and traditions!"



IMMIGRANT LOBBYING DAY

by Silvia Brandon Pérez

A coalition of organizations on May 24 sponsored a fun and successful Immigrant Lobbying Day in Sacramento around the theme of "One California -- Many Peoples, One Future." One of the things we worked on, the Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights, was passed by the assembly! Consider: 30% of Bay Area residents are immigrants, mostly documented. Still, two-thirds of immigrants live in mixed-status households. Because of the current "enforcement only" approach to immigration reform, each of these families is at risk of losing a member at any time. Immigrants make an enormous contribution to the Bay Area economy: 1/3 of the labor force consists of immigrants and over 20% of the area's gross domestic product is attributable to immigrants. Such statistics highlight the need for education and advocacy.

DEMO EVENTS

If you have events to list on the club calendar, please send them to MaryAnne Reno at maren01@hotmail.com

ALAMEDA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

First Wednesday of each month at the San Leandro Library, 7p 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

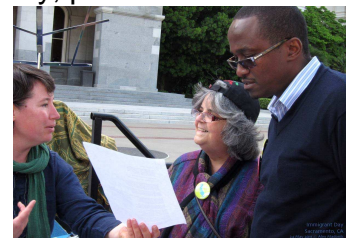
Summer Swing at Casa Zermeno. Potluck, Politics and Fundraising. For details: 510.732.5746.

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



WAYS TO HELP

Locked Out Castlewood Workers still need You. They have been fighting for affordable access to health care for more than a year! Contact Sarah, norr.sarah@gmail.com 510/502-5344 or visit www.endthelockout.org

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Give a Homeless Angel a home. Made by local artists who are homeless or are at risk for homelessness, these angels are a small part of our efforts to remove obstacles to self-sufficiency. Only \$5 each! Contact South Hayward Parish's Hayward Community Action Network for details, [haywardcan@gmail.com](mailto:haywardcan@gmail.com) or visit [www.southhaywardparish.org](http://www.southhaywardparish.org)



## CALIFORNIA STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION – A

### Snapshot View

*By Helena Straughter*

Leading up to this year's State Democratic Convention (held April 29 to May 1, 2011), delegates from the Hayward Demos and other clubs pledged to sign up 1,000 members for DEM2012. We exceeded our goal by 218! For more information about DEM2012 and to join in, visit <http://www.cadem.org>

As your delegate, I attended the "Learn to Fish," and Redistricting workshops. The Learn to Fish workshop focused on fundraising as the engine that drives any successful political endeavor. In the Redistricting workshop, I learned more about neighborhood and community interest boundaries and our role as voters in California. If you want to provide testimony to the Redistricting Commission, you will want to show the common social interests that should be considered for fair representation. For example, aging population areas, developing (up-and-coming) neighborhoods, golf courses, parks, gardens, bike parks. You show the demographic breakdown, historic communities, tourist attractions, etc. Look at your district and ask these questions.

- 1 - What are the community assets? (Community centers, natural resources, cultural events, etc.)
- 2 – Are changes occurring? (e.g. housing foreclosures, demographic changes).
3. What social and economic interest bind your community together (bring a list)
4. Why should your community be kept together? (e.g. for effective fair representation.)

The Commission needs to know your perspective on these questions. State the area you are representing, location and boundaries of your community – street, highway land line.

Delegates at the Convention also elected Regional Directors. The first African-American Woman elected as a Regional Director was Diana Love for Region II. Royce Kelley was re-elected as our Region 6 Director.



## MORE EVENTS

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP & KEEP HAYWARD CLEAN AND GREEN** efforts need your involvement. For details: [www.hayward-ca.gov](http://www.hayward-ca.gov)

### **"BREAKING DOWN THE DISCONNECT"**

Wed, June 15, 6-8pm  
Supervisor Nadia Lockyer,  
Community Forum Chabot  
College. Info 510.272.6692

**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS WILL EXCEL IN HAYWARD** Learn and contribute towards achieving this goal **Thurs June 16, 6:30pm Palma Ceia Baptist Church 28605 Ruus Rd, Hayward**  
*More details about this effort in the next newsletter*

**NAACP PRAYER BREAKFAST**, June 18, Hometown Buffet, San Leandro.

**GAY PROM** June 18, Chabot College. Volunteers and Donations needed to ensure a safe and joyful event for all youth. Contact Project Eden/Horizon Services. 510-247-8200

**COMMISSION OPEN HOUSE** Thurs, June 30, 5pm, Hayward City Hall Rotunda. Learn how you can become part of decision making in the City Info. 510.583.4400

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HEALTH & AGING FAIR**, Wed Aug 10  
10A Health testing, screenings, and fun activities. Chabot College FREE ~ 510.577.3532



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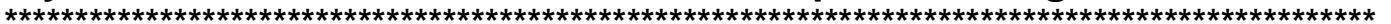
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**FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Hayward DEMOS or visit [www.haywarddemos.org](http://www.haywarddemos.org)**



**NEXT MEETING:**

**Friday, June 17, 7 P.M. Westminster Hills 27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, 94544. "The view from Labor, topics for Progressives."**



**OPINION: VERMONT PASSES UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE, WHAT ABOUT CA?**

*By Jim Forsyth*

On May 5<sup>th</sup> the Vermont House of Representatives passed a health reform bill providing a publicly funded universal health care system in Vermont. Governor Peter Shumlin signed the bill into law as grassroots organizing mobilized thousands of Vermonters in support of the bill.

"Green Mountain Care" as the new system is called, will provide high quality health care to all Vermont residents regardless of income, health status or employment. And after days of constituents' phone calls, protests and a May Day rally, even a last-minute amendment that would have excluded undocumented aliens was dropped from the bill.

Although implementation is expected to take three to five years, the bill may clash with Obama's act, which prohibits states from launching their own bills until 2017. Independent Senator Bernie Sanders has said he will get a waiver and President Obama himself has said he would support a 2014 date for state experimentation.

SB810, our single payer bill, passed the Senate Health Committee after intensive lobbying. Governor Jerry Brown has promised to sign the bill. It is anticipated that in order to finance start-up costs (though overall huge savings will result) a ballot initiative will be needed. Our job now is to get organizational endorsements and build a statewide movement. Demos members at our April meeting renewed our endorsement of SB810. We must build a sustainable movement for single payer health care. Healthcare is a human right!