

-THE VOORHIS VOICE

Progressive Voice of the Pomona Valley

NOVEMBER 2020

www.claremontdems.org



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT MEETINGS

DEMOCRATIC ELECTION SLAM: Monday November 2, 7pm, Zoom, Finale of the Slam series

ELECTION CELEBRATION, Wednesday November 4, Zoom 7-10 pm. Stop by and enjoy the (hoped for) festivities (election results, honored guests, political discussions) at any time; the Zoom link will be distributed

FRIDAY ISSUES 'LUNCHESES' - Zoom Meeting, 12-1 Fridays, Mel Boynton Organizer

MONTHLY 'LUNCHEON' - Friday November 13 Zoom Meeting: Speaker: Raymond Moya, San Bernardino County Democratic Campaign HQ

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - Zoom Meeting, Saturday November 21

**MONTHLY MEMBERS' MEETING – Monday, November 30: Zoom Meeting:
Nomination of DCC Officers; Speaker: TBD**

OTHER MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Campaign Trail

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3: ELECTION DAY



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLAREMONT NEWS

From the Editor

The Presidential election on Tuesday is one of the most consequential in American history. It will rank up there with the 1860 election in which the question of southern secession and the possibility of civil war was at stake and the election of 1932 in which the issue (with the Great Depression ongoing) was whether the hold of big business on American politics would be broken (or at least dented).

As others have said, the coming election is for the soul of America. Will we rid ourselves of the worst President we have ever had, a true national disaster, and halt the white nationalism (i.e. racism) that he stands for and promotes? Of course, even if the vote goes against Trump, will he and his true believers accept it? The election will not be over on the 3rd.
Be prepared!

Annual Holiday Party

Although, because of the pandemic, our usual in-person dinner and awards event will be virtual, but it will still happen? Not only does the event provide you an opportunity to renew your membership for 2021, it is the venue at which we recognize local activists with the Helen Myers Leadership Award. Helen was a Claremont resident who, along with Senator Alan Cranston, invented the California Democratic Council which is the origin of California's unique Democratic Clubs (including the DCC). Helen became the Co-Chair/Director of Southern California of this all-volunteer organization that led to grass-roots organizing in California. We are honored to be able to recognize so many progressive activists who follow in Helen's footsteps! Our Congresswoman Judy Chu has already agreed to attend; invitations are out to all our elected officials.

Finally, no matter what the outcome of the November election, there will continue to be many important and ongoing issues that will need our attention.

Please stay involved.

DCC Endorsements in Local Races

Our charter from the Los Angeles County Democratic Party requires that we do not provide a platform for members of other parties. Hence we provide candidate' endorsements only for registered Democrats. We make endorsements as a guide to Democratic voters, to provide them with information about the relative strengths of the Democratic candidates.

The Executive Board asked all Democratic candidates for Claremont offices to submit answers to a questionnaire that we constructed. All candidates did so. We then scheduled Zoom interviews, over a period of two nights, for all the candidates (all but one was able to participate). The Board then deliberated, given the question-aires and the interviews, as to whether and who to recommend to the membership for endorsements. Members in good standing in the club voted at a Zoom meeting for their choices.

The resulting endorsements are as follows:

City Council District #1: Christine Margiotta
City Council District #5: Michael Ceraso
Claremont Unified District Board: Chris Naticchia
Citrus College Trustee: no endorsement
Three Valleys Water District: Danielle Soto

Announcement from Swing Left

Just a week ago we sent our precious letters, all **45,000** of them written by our dedicated and committed Swing Left Inland Valley members, off to their intended recipients. Already, Vote Forward has gotten a story that I want to share with you.

Stats from Vote Forward:

- Total letters written: **17,484,276**
- Total volunteers writing letters: **182,331**
- Value of stamps purchased, supporting USPS: **\$9.6 million**
- Percent of prepared letters confirmed sent so far: **93%**

Here is another angle; with an effective rate of 2.5% to turn out the vote, we are going to have 425,000 more votes in our column because of your Vote Forward letters. The cost **per additional vote is \$22.62**. It seems like a small price to take back the Senate, the White House and put a check on the madness.



Essays Etc. by Club Members



Letters from Club Members

Merrill Ring had the following letter published in the Courier

Out of all the words, flyers, mailers, ads concerning the election for the school board, there is one document that stands out. Chris Naticchia wrote a Viewpoint piece for the Courier last December 17 pointing out how dependent our school district is on out of district enrollment (26% of Claremont students transfer from surrounding districts). The district receives state money for them. Yet neighboring districts are experiencing declining enrollments and so are stopping approving transfers, and thus money, from their communities to Claremont. Since Claremont birthrates are very unlikely to increase, the only solution to prevent declining enrollments is to attract more families with children to live in Claremont. That means we must increase our housing stock within the affordable range in order to have such families move here.

That argument shows that Chris is making a connection between our local education system and the larger world, in this case the district's home community. His candidacy for the school board is not based upon the idea that all CUSD needs are a few tweaks to continue its search for excellence. The board must be attentive to developments that fall outside the orthodox concern with the details of the functioning of our schools.

That is not the only recognition that can be found in Chris' campaign. The country is moving in the direction of a more fair distribution of opportunity for disadvantaged groups. Claremont schools will not be able to avoid taking

into account how they can prepare our students to live in a world in which the central American value of equality becomes more fully realized in practice. Chris' program has one of its chief features providing Claremont students with an increased understanding of what equality among ethnic and racial groups amounts to.

Our democracy is under attack by the rise of authoritarianism. That means that we have not done enough in educating our young people to implant in them a sufficient understanding of what democratic practices involve. The Naticchia' campaign has a significant focus on inculcating democratic ideals from an early age.

Chris stands out among the three candidates as the only one who is deeply attentive to the need to relocate Claremont's school system in a changing world. He calls for re-imagining what education must be for our students to prosper in the quite different country that is coming to be. The school board needs a distinctive perspective that only Chris represents.

Karen Chapman Lenz had the following letter published in the Courier (Oct 23)

Last Courier, Merrill Ring pointed out that Chris Naticchia is unique among the candidates for the school board for thinking outside the box, for thinking about issues that impact our education system that do not obviously come with the board member territory. He mentions the Viewpoint that Chris Naticchia wrote showing the connection between CUSD student enrollments and affordable housing. But there is more. Naticchia has also written about racism and our schools, and (with Pam Nagler) about the importance of passing Proposition 15 for the benefit of Claremont schools. He even wrote a downhome piece about his experiences in learning to teach classes via Zoom. As a Claremont elementary school teacher for 32 years, now retired, I believe we need Chris Naticchia on the school board because he sees how our educational efforts are connected to the wider world.

Carolee and Jack Monroe had the following letter published in the Courier (Oct 30)

Chris Naticchia is a philosopher and as such has developed his ability to see the big picture and how all the parts within work together and are affected by outside influences. Public education is his career and his passion and he is always reviewing its parts and working to support and improve it. As a candidate for CUSD Board of Education, two of his concerns are teaching critical thinking skills and improving equity throughout the education system.

In today's world we are all subject to a maelstrom of information. Chris believes we must give our children the skills and tools to analyze, reason and evaluate the information they encounter. This training should be incorporated into the elementary grades through high school. When our children leave high school, they will be able to use evidence to support thinking, see new and better solutions, examine diverse points of view, and more. They will be better prepared for higher education, employment, social interactions, life in the modern world.

Improving equity in the Claremont schools is another important goal for Chris. The benefits for our students are many. Adding ethnic studies expands the focus to tell a story from another's perspective, changing the Eurocentric-only point of view. Children meet new literature, new heroes. Adding diversity to the teaching force is another of Chris's objectives as it is important for our diverse student population to have role models who look like them.

For these reasons and more, we believe that Chris Naticchia is the best choice for Claremont School Board.

The following letter was published in the Courier (Oct 30) – club members at the Oct 26th meeting voted to have it written and the writing was a joint effort of club members, hence it was published under the name of the club.

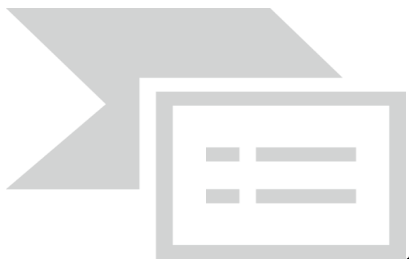
Earlier this year, the Democratic Club of Claremont strongly supported the nationwide move toward re-imagining the role of police in the US. We noted that that applied to Claremont also.

A recent dispute in Claremont highlights the complexity of what that development amounts to. At the heart of this specific disagreement is the question of how best to address calls for intervention at our local motels: should our police respond as they always have or should we develop alternative

methods, such as trained mental health professionals or other first responders, to intervene in non-violent situations? That question raises a further question: how might we go about devising and delivering public safety interventions that acknowledge that some situations do involve violence and some do not, and that the nature of the possible actions must be responsive to and adjustable to the situation?

The DCC thinks the question of how to respond to troubles at motels must be debated as part of a larger public policy question. We support the perspective that police cannot solve ongoing mental health or substance abuse problems, nor should they be tasked with it. We also recognize that police are needed in specific contexts, and should be equipped to successfully and safely intervene in those moments.

We will continue to call for serious discourse and action on the larger issue of public safety. We also hold tight to the conviction that to impugn the qualifications or abilities of those defending opposite views, or resorting to personal criticism, is not the way Claremont should proceed in this matter of crucial importance. The DCC believes that in order to be an equitable community, Claremont must address the needs of all of our residents and be open to honest, even if uncomfortable, dialogue and resist the temptation to traffic in the misrepresentation of divergent ideas or perspectives.



Now YOU write!

Do so! Of course, newspapers have so many restrictions (especially space) that very worthwhile letters do not get published. But try! And if it doesn't get published there, sent it to the VV and it most likely will be published here. (Or if it does get published, send it here also and have it published again.)



Or call & Complain (or Praise)

MEMBERSHIP: JOIN THE DCC or RENEW

We have no corporate sponsors. Your membership dues pay all DCC's expenses which include our meeting expenses, P.O box, club charter, storage space for our booths, publicity, political donations, support for the CHS Young Democrats, and events such as Claremont's July 4th celebration and Village Venture,. Take this opportunity to renew if you haven't already done so. *Just complete and mail this form.*

Mail this form with your check to: Democratic Club of Claremont, P.O. Box 1201, Claremont, CA 91711

Individual \$30 Family \$40 Contributing \$50-99 Patron \$100-249
 Lifetime \$250 Student/Limited Income \$5

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Occupation _____ Employer _____

The *Voorhis Voice* is published by the Democratic Club of Claremont, PO Box 1201, Claremont CA 91711. The newsletter's name commemorates the late Jerry Voorhis, a talented and courageous Congress member from Claremont.

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