



YosemiteDems.net

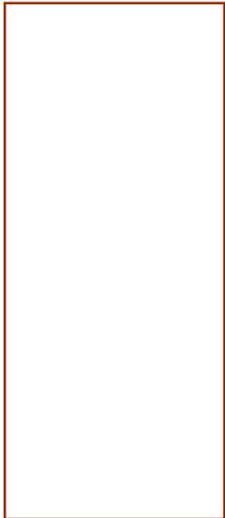
The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644



THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

Aug. – Sep 2007

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The *Mountain Democrat* is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

August 2007

Aug 4: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Aug. 10-12: CDC Convention

Aug 18: Mariposa Club Meeting

Aug 25: Summer Picnic

September 2007

Sep 1: Mariposa Parade

Sep 8 Mariposa Club Meeting

CONTACT US

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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

YosemiteDems.net

Oakhurst Democratic Club's

CHILIFEST

&

Farewell to Ginny & Bart Terrell



Oakhurst Community Park
Saturday, August 25th
4 pm - 7pm

Chili, cornbread, salad and cake
\$7 Adults
\$4 Age 12 and under

Speaker: Rebecca Martinez

County Clerk-Recorder
On the February Primary

For info call 658-2342

The Difference Between News and Noise

By Heather Lacayo

In the fast moving, information driven world we live in, the difference between news and noise has become blurred. In an effort to get the best ratings, the most viewers, the largest readership, the most internet-site hits, some factual news itself has begun sounding more like noise and some noise has alternately become mistaken as news.

The definitional difference between news and noise should be clear.

News *

- 1 a: a report of recent events...
- 2 a: material reported in a newspaper or news periodical or on a newscast b: matter that is newsworthy

Noise *

- 1 loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry...
- 2 common talk: RUMOR; especially: SLANDER
- 3 something that attracts attention...

Attention is attractive to pundits and hacks that may be too lazy to research the facts. Unfortunately, even pundits and hacks can get press passes easily from many organizations for the very reason that if they don't, they will create more NOISE, and further blur the news.

It is up to us all to pay close attention to the difference between an opinionated hack and a respected reporter. A reporter's job is to research and report facts. Opinion is meant to enter a piece if that piece is labeled commentary, or is written by a critic, but the facts of the piece should still be accurate.

For a detailed description of what we should all expect and demand from those disseminating the news, whether on television,

The Difference Between News and Noise (continued)

the internet, the radio, or on paper, please read The Society of Professional Journalists' code of ethics. The full text of the code is available at: <http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>

The following are the four main sections of the code, and summarize the essence of the text:

Seek Truth and Report It
Minimize Harm
Act Independently
Be Accountable

If you find a discrepancy in the facts of what has been reported, trust your gut. Question the source, even if he or she had a press pass and a blog. And please do not pass on the misinformation you find - you will only add to the noise, NOT the news.

Heather Lacayo

Member: Society of Professional Journalists

* Lengthy definitions of "news" and "noise" available - Merriam-Webster OnLine <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary>



Editors Note: There was recently a lengthy debate on the YosemiteDems reflector concerning the appropriateness of forwarding some types of information found on the internet. Heather Lacayo, Jery Lacayo's daughter, who is a journalist and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists was asked to write an article on the subject. I believe that this is an increasingly important topic in politics.

From the Wilds of Mariposa

By Les Marsden

Hey Granny: it's time to kick up your heels and skip off to the Fair! Annually one of our most important outreach opportunities, the Mariposa County Fair offers the Main Street parade (on Highways 140/49) wherein our big ol' float always serves as a standout. This year, the Float will be pulled by none other than Gary Robbins, our illustrious Region 7 California Democratic Party Director – thanks, Gary! And then it's on to the exhibition hall double booth where we get the word OUT: there are Democrats in these mountains – and we're ACTIVE! We always sign up new Club members at the booth and also register voters – I'm always surprised at the number of enthusiastic people who find out they're not alone in Mariposa when they discover us through our Fair Booth.

This year's parade will be Saturday, September 1; time is not yet announced but as soon as I'm notified, I'll e-mail our Mariposa Democratic Club membership. Usually, volunteers show up that morning to help decorate the big float around 9:00 or so; all riders are usually asked to be in place by about 10:00 and the parade begins at 11:00. Young and old, human and non-human are welcome to ride. We are always a very impressive sight – and command respect for a notable Democratic presence.

The Fair itself officially opens (this year) on the afternoon of Friday, August 31 and continues until closing night on Labor Day – Monday, September 3. Of course, the closing night has become a wonderful tradition featuring the outdoor concert of the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra on the Amigo Stage from 7:00 – 8:30, when the fireworks display commences. But between Friday's opening and Monday evening's finale, the Democratic booth is the place to be! Jery will soon be filling out the roster of "booth-sitters" and so please try to leave some time in your schedule for that weekend to stand up (or rather: sit down) – and be counted!

From the Wilds of Mariposa (continued)

Meetings News: Our July 14th Breakfast Meeting Speaker was (Mariposa Club member) Paul Weiss, who offered a great multi-media presentation on his possible run against Radanovich for the United States Congress next year. The 19th Congressional District is one we've been itching to reclaim for many election cycles and Paul told us just *how* he'd like to take that seat! Because of the CDC convention in Los Angeles on August 10 – 12, our August Breakfast Meeting will be held on the THIRD Saturday of the month: the 18th. Our speakers for that meeting will be Rachel Oliver and Kevin Bowman – who will tell us all about the Chrysalis Institute, a local non-profit corporation. The Institute, deeply concerned about the global environmental crisis and the unsustainable state of human technological and economic institutions, believes that sustainable change can best be enacted by addressing global needs in the context of local educational, technological and environmental projects. More information including the fascinating Papercrete construction project is available at their website: <http://www.thechrysalisinstitute.org>

If you're not a member of the Mariposa Democratic Club but belong to one of our neighboring organizations, you can still be kept current on our activities. Just e-mail me at actlocally@sti.net and ask to be added to my distribution list for the Mariposa Democrats. And see you at the Fair, Granny!



Oakhurst Club President's Report

By Victoria Williams

Hope you are having a good summer and are looking forward to choosing our candidate for President, and getting control of the Senate and the House. Are we ready for a change?

Here at home we have discussed what we can do to support Democratic ideals. Yes we do have ideals, and values too! At our Oakhurst Democrats' June meeting we discussed what we can do. I would appreciate your comments on these points. Email me at DaveandVictoriaW@yahoo.com.

First to promote activism on various issues by:

- Attending the Madera Oversight Committee Meetings (Could you attend one of these and report back to us about local issues?)
- Scheduling issue-related speakers (Let us know what topics interest you!)
- Working with the Calif. Democratic Council to identify national and California issues and related actions that we can support. (See information on the CDC Convention. Would you like to come with us?)

Of course we will continue our “**get out the vote**” efforts and we will continue to **grow as a Democratic Club**.

Let us know if you would like to help with any of these activities:

- Voter registration of new citizens at naturalization ceremonies.
- Outreach to local community college students.
- Improving visibility through newspaper articles, bumper stickers, fair booth, Student Service Awards.
- Plan activities for families (Hope you can come to the Aug 25th Picnic!)
- Organize house parties.

Oakhurst Club President's Report (continued)

Fundraising Priorities:

- Club operating expenses (CDC membership, communications, some assistance to members for CDC meeting fees)
- Student Service Awards (our new program has been well received)
- Outreach projects

Looking forward to working with all of you to accomplish these goals for 2007-2008.



Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**Hot Dog!!
I just love to ride on the big
Democratic Float!!**





CDC Statewide Convention is around the corner!

The California Democratic Council's **55th Annual Convention** will be held **August 10-12, 2007** at the *Sheraton LAX Gateway Hotel*.

Please join us for a great weekend of training, elected official and candidate presentations, policy discussions and fellowship. All three days of the weekend will feature more than 24 workshops to help your club and county committee to become more effective.

\$210 - Full Convention Registration (includes all programs, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners and all evening programs)

\$35 - Workshops and Business Sessions without meals

To register for the convention, go to:

<http://www.cdc-ca.org>



A "Thank You" from Our Scholarship Recipient

July 10, 2007

Dear Oakhurst Democratic Club,

Thank you so much for choosing me as one of your community award recipients. It is so wonderful going to college knowing that I have money to help pay for it. I would also like to thank you for inviting me to your meeting and buying me breakfast. It was so nice to meet the people who gave me the award. Thank you for making me feel welcome and for being part of the generous community we live in. Without the kindness of Clubs like yours, the mountain area would not be as spectacular as it is.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lalev



Scholarship winners Michelle Lalev, left, and Adrian Hernandez, center, with scholarship committee members Pati Stein, second from left, and Sally Jeans, right.

Progress on Ahwahnee Hills Park Project

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Fern Facchino of the **Friends of the Ahwahnee Hills Park Project** addressed the Oakhurst club on July 7th. The park is being created in Ahwahnee at the former sanitarium site. The project demonstrates how community members, nonprofit organizations and local government can collaborate to achieve common goals.

Today there are only 3 acres of parkland in *all of Madera County*. With the passage of the Quimby Act in 1975, cities and counties have been authorized to pass ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Unfortunately, Madera County was one of two counties in California that had not implemented the Quimby Act when local boosters began their efforts to develop the Ahwahnee land as a park, and just getting the county to accept park development grants from sources such as Propositions 12 and 40 took three years. The county has finally implemented a development fee schedule to cover the creation of parks.

A consortium of civic groups and local leaders are working to make the park a reality, and a foundation has been created to accept donations. Local architect **Patrice Jenson** is acting as project manager. The **Oakhurst Morning Rotary Club** has members willing to provide in-kind services to develop tournament-sized soccer and baseball fields. **Greg Miller from Miller Mountain Sports** is working to get a grant to develop a "Frisbee Golf" area. The **Eastern Madera County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** is thinking about building a facility in the park, and the **Petanque Club** wants to relocate there. The park will ultimately have tables, barbeques, and walking and pedestrian trails.

The State, which has provided funds for the park, wants it opened *now*, but National and California Environmental Policy Act

Progress on Ahwahnee Hills Park Project (continued)

(NEPA and CEQA) reports have to be completed. The County was supposed to have completed these reports last October.

Maintenance will have to come partly from volunteers, but grants are also available through the **Coarsegold Conservation District**. Madera County finally has plans to hire its first Parks and Recreation Director and the consortium can work with that person to maintain the park.

Donations can be made to the **Friends of the Ahwahnee Hills Park Project** and mailed to P.O. Box 974, Oakhurst, Ca. 93644. For more information, call Fern at 559-683-0408.



Fern Facchino speaking to Oakhurst Club

Local Candidate Contemplating Run for Congress

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Mariposan Paul Weiss is seriously considering running a grass roots campaign for the 19th Congressional District, and has spoken to many of the mountain clubs.

Paul has an interesting and varied background. At the age of 19 he served in the Navy Air Force in French Morocco. After that, he graduated with a degree in Sociology from Canisius College, a Jesuit school, in Buffalo, New York. The morning after graduation, he and his pregnant wife drove to California where they raised 5 children.

Kids have always been at the top of Paul's priority list. After spending a few years in Santa Barbara as director of Sansum Medical Research Foundation, Paul started an international nonprofit to help children. He spent the next 30 years providing nutritional and educational help to tens of thousands of children in the U.S., Mexico and Central America. The work of **Children of The Americas** continues (you will find more information at americaschildren.org).

Prior to arriving in Mariposa in 2001, he spent 7 years working on children's issues in the nation's Capital. He moved his organization's headquarters to Washington when he learned that more than half of Washington's children go to bed hungry every night.

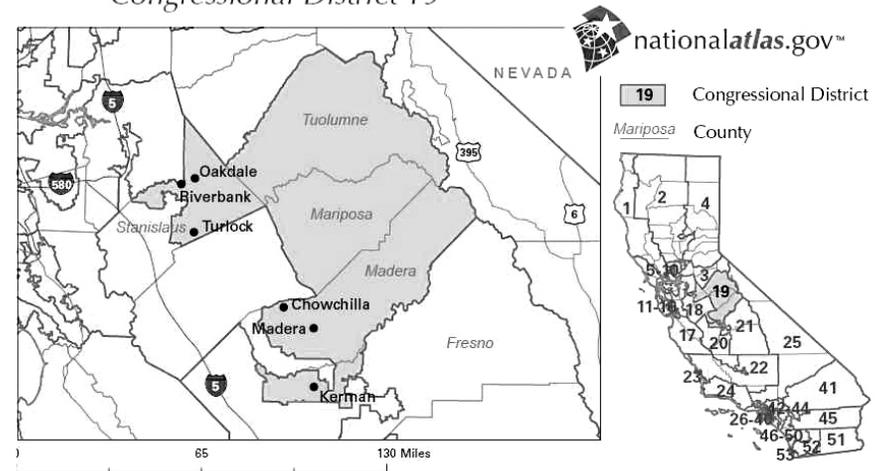
Since retiring from Children of The Americas, he has pursued a second career as a video essayist and spent 3 months last year in Argentina and Antarctica producing a documentary. Two of his essays on Iraq, **Teen Soldiers** and **Patriots!** can be viewed on YouTube.com.

Local Candidate Contemplating Run for Congress (continued)

If you're interested in helping Paul with his campaign, he can be reached at CitizenWeiss08@yahoo.com.



Congressional District 19



California (53 Districts)

Mortimer Mouse Sez...

**WOW!!
You talk about a gerrymandered
district, this is it!**



SCENES FROM SUMMERS PAST

Mariposa Parade



SCENES FROM SUMMERS PAST

Mariposa Fair Booth



Oakhurst Summer Picnic



WE NEED YOU TO RIDE THE FLOAT



**SHOW THEM
THERE ARE
DEMOCRATS
IN THE
MOUNTAINS**

**MARIPOSA
SAT. SEPT. 1st**
Call 209-742-7891
Or 559-658,2342

**Bring your
FRIENDS, FAMILY, DOGS, FLAGS & SIGNS!
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Mariposa lifetime membership is \$100)

Today's Date: _____

Mariposa Club: _____ or Oakhurst Club: _____

New Member: _____ or Renewal: _____

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisorial District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	or	Oakhurst Democratic Club
5409 Tip Top Road		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 966-3367		(559) 658-2342