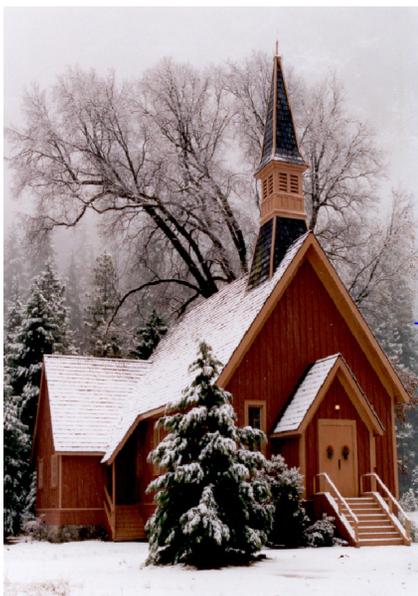




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The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644



# The Mountain Democrat

## Dec. 2011 - Jan. 2012

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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

### December 2011

Dec 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting

**Dec 10 Mariposa Club Holiday  
Lunch Potluck**  
(Page 3)

### January 2012

Jan 7: **NO** Oakhurst Meeting

Jan 14: 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:

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## **Annual December Potluck!**

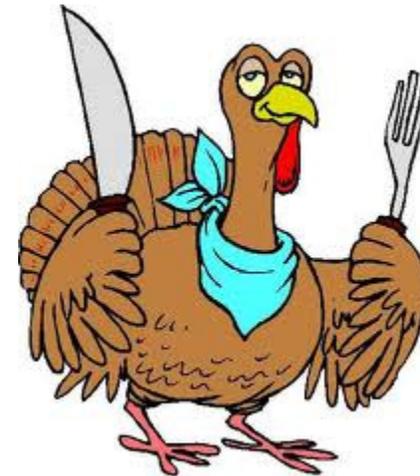
The Mariposa Democratic Club's December meeting will be our annual potluck. It will still be on the second Saturday of December – December 10<sup>th</sup>, but at lunchtime instead of breakfast.

Bring your favorite dish to share, lots of holiday joy, and any relatives, friends, acquaintances who happen to be in town!

The event will be held in Jerseydale; the Smallcombes have kindly offered their house as the event location. Please call Anne, 209-742-6872 for directions; if there is a lot of snow we will have a carpool going from Darrah School.

Our normal meetings will continue starting in January; second Saturday of the month at Miner's Inn Restaurant.

Hope to see everyone in December!



## My Mantra for Congress

Les Marsden

As we move towards the do-or-die scenario of the Congressional “Super Committee” and its pre-determined mandate to cannibalize desperately-needed federal programs rather than raise revenue by forcing the wealthy and corporations to pay their fair share, I really do think the most important message we MUST make into a mantra is this:

**Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid have NOTHING to do with the federal budget problems. And therefore, must NOT be touched.**

To “solve” the federal budget crisis by increasing the age of Social Security retirement is utterly, absurdly, illogically ridiculous. It’s as if I studied my family budget, noted fiscal shortfalls and then decided to make up the budget difference by ripping a wall off my house. Which of course, makes no sense whatsoever.

The wall has nothing to do (directly) with the family budget. The wall is structurally sound—and performs its role well—especially when it receives wise upkeep. And to rip that wall from my house will weaken my home, imperil my family, create huge heating problems, welcome theft and marauding animals...well, you get the picture. (And yes, we really do have marauding animals up here high in the mountains where I live!)

And the REALLY cynical thing? The reason there's any question about the solvency (still many years away) of Social Security is because Congress has been allowed to raid (what Al Gore referenced as) its "lockbox." Social Security paycheck deductions more than cover what Social Security pays out. But Congress has pilfered those (allegedly) dedicated funds to pay for totally unrelated things. And so, to be really cynical: all they're trying to do now is to cut benefits and raise the retirement age in order to

## My Mantra for Congress (continued)

create NOT a greater solvency for Social Security (as they claim) but merely to create more funds ripe for pilferage. They don't give a damn about the solvency of Social Security—all they're after is a greater source of “lockbox” money to divert into OTHER federal budgets. So they can continue to lower taxes on the wealthy and allow corporations to get away with murder because those funds won't be needed to PAY for those other federal budgets and: the government will continue to be operated (to an extent) on Social Security INCOME paid for by working peoples' paycheck deductions.

Sweet, ain't it?

So please: remember:

**Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid have NOTHING to do with the federal budget problems. And therefore, must NOT be touched.**

**Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid have NOTHING to do with the federal budget problems. And therefore, must NOT be touched.**

**Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid have NOTHING to do with the federal budget problems. And therefore, must NOT be touched...**

## **Facts Speak Louder Than Words!**

By Peter Cavanaugh

I am delighted to report that the Executive Board of the California Democratic Party has, in fact, re-certified The CDP Progressive Caucus by the UNANIMOUS endorsement of the E-Board. We are occupying our Party!

And none too soon!

I would presume that most of us have friends, relatives, and particularly unfriendly relatives on the dark side who can't wait to share brilliant bursts of transcendental illumination reflecting the political sophistication of --yes---a----(wait for it) -----NEWT!

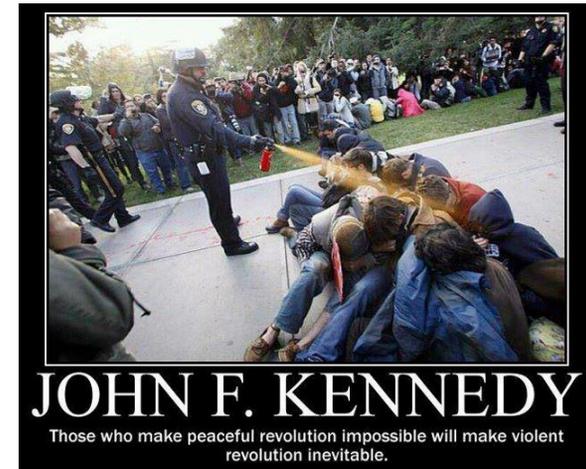
Allow me to share this brief example I received only minutes ago from a Flint associate now living in luxuriously isolated splendor high above Seal Beach overlooking beautiful downtown La Jolla. Indicated in the "SUBJECT" line is the undeniable assertion--**"Facts Speak Louder Than Words!"** Then it said:

**"The day the Democrats took over was not January 22nd 2009, it was actually January 3rd 2007, the day the Democrats took over the House of Representatives and the Senate, at the very start of the 110th Congress.**

**"Bush may have been in the car but the Democrats were in charge of the gas pedal and steering wheel they were driving the economy into the ditch.**

**"If Obama inherited anything, he inherited it from himself."**

You get the picture. This was sent to several dozen folks of similarly addled persuasion. I had a different picture. It was this one—fitting perfectly with **"Facts Speak Louder Than Words"**. I kept the subject line, erased the rest, hit "Reply To All" and sent it along.



As Will Rogers so aptly summarized, "I belong to no organized party—I'm a Democrat. I herein add—"Unlike most Republicans who goose step to party line under the blighted banner of Grover Norquist."

There has been no Democratic (capital "D") or democratic (small "d") "control of Congress" for quite some time, certainly not in the recent past.

And here are three little words to share with millionaire martinets questioning the "purpose" of those tens of thousands of young, patriotic American "Occupiers" far and wide and, most especially, with all now occupying hierarchal positions of power in the national Democratic Party.

### **READ THE SIGNS!**

They are messages for our future—drafted by the children of today.

"That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

## PHOTOS



Ed, Darylsue, and Charles at the Chocolate and Wine Festival Booth



Marc Boyd speaking to the Oakhurst Club in October

## PHOTOS



See the newsletter  
In COLOR at:  
[YosemiteDems.net](http://YosemiteDems.net)



## Supporting Obama

By Anne Brock

I've heard it a few times. Come to think of it, I've said it a few times. "I don't like Obama's policy on XYZ. He doesn't represent me!" We've heard this with environment issues, labor issues, Libya, Guantanamo, etc.

This came up most recently in a conversation around Libya – should we have intervened? I was unhappy with the cost of it and that Obama didn't ask for the consent of Congress per the War Powers Act. I was happy other countries and the UN took the lead.

So; does this mean Obama doesn't represent me? No. Does Obama represent Democrats? Yes. Does he represent the American people? Yes. Do I agree with him on everything? No. It is impossible for a politician to agree with everyone on every issue in the party they represent—because even we Democrats don't agree on all the issues. And it gets even harder when the president is representing a whole country, of which almost half didn't vote for him. And it IS the president's job to represent everyone—not red Americans, not blue Americans, not even purple Americans. He or she has to represent everyone.

But if you are unhappy with Pres. Obama, what's your alternative? McCain/Palin? We would still be in Iraq. We would definitely have bombed Libya. We'd probably already be bombing Iran or paying Israel to do it. On environment, labor, health, and women's issues—we would be worse off, in my opinion.

So the president represents everyone—that's the job description. When I don't agree, my options are to write letters, sign petitions, hold protests in the street, etc. etc. etc. And, if I really feel a president's views are so opposed to my own that I can't stand having him or her as my leader, then I vote against that president - as I did with Bush.

## Supporting Obama (Continued)

I haven't reached that point with Obama, personally. Obviously, each of us needs to check our mind, gut and heart to decide if we have reached the point where we will not vote for him in 2012. But—President Cain? President Bachman? PRESIDENT SANTORUM? I'm voting for Obama ... even though he's not perfect. I'll keep writing, emailing, signing petitions, and supporting progressive legislators—those in California, like Pelosi, and those in other states as well—to keep the pressure on and to make sure he hears my voice. That's our role as voters and citizens.

I think the best way to get Obama to be more of a progressive than he is at heart is to elect representatives and senators who will support progressive issues. That's the way for those of us who are more progressive than Pres. Obama to get our voices heard. And maybe in the future we can have a more progressive president. But regardless of how progressive that president is—when she or he is sworn in to office, they will be responsible for representing ALL the American people; not just me.

Agree? Disagree? Please write an article for this newsletter letting us know!



## **In Praise of Corporations**

Anne Brock

Look, I'm very sympathetic to the Occupy Wall Street movement. I love the energy; they've brought a lot of attention to the corporate malfeasance of some of the Wall Street companies.

But I get very tired of hearing "corporations are evil" or words to that effect. I work for a corporation; it employs me and over 6,000 other people. My corporation doesn't lie, cheat, steal nor pollute the environment; it pays its employees reasonably well and treats them decently; it follows the federal regulations both at home and overseas and doesn't traffic with countries like Iran and Lybia. It gives us training on a regular basis on various ethical topics ranging from diversity issues to the FCPA act (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act). When an employee does something wrong—unethical or illegal—I've seen the company correct the action, crack down on the action, and train others to not do that. Is it perfect? Of course not—it's made up of humans and we aren't perfect. But I have time and again seen it work hard to adhere to the rules and regulations.

Now are there corporations (such as the Koch companies) that maybe aren't that ethical? That don't follow all the laws? Sure. They are definitely out there, and they should be cracked down on, heavily fined, possibly have people go to jail. But most corporations are like mine—following the laws and regulations and providing good jobs for a lot of good people.

Having said this—yes, we need to keep regulating corporations! We need a legal structure to tell corporations that "you can go this far, and no more". And the problem all of us progressives have re Citizens' United is that it is giving corporations a way to use their profits to remove the regulations. But don't blame corporations for Citizens' United—that was the fault of the Supreme Court.

Next time someone tells you "corporations are the bad guys please tell them that there are plenty that are just doing their jobs.

### **Mariposa Democratic Club Announces 2012 Slate**

Here is the proposed 2012 slate for the Mariposa Democratic Club; voting will take place in December; nominations can also be made from the floor at the meeting.

Co Presidents: Rosemarie and Steve Smallcombe

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Cameron Burley

Corresponding and Recording Secretary: Anne Brock

Treasurer: Jim Spotts

Asst Treasurer: Vicki Roland

At Large: Lucille Aparcar

At Large: Kathy Lander

At Large: Laura Lee

At Large: Shirley Schmelzer



**PLEASE "LIKE"**  
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*NOW ON*



*The Oakhurst and Mariposa Democratic Clubs now have a Facebook page. Keep up with all the latest club and Democratic happenings by following us there!*

*If you need assistance, contact Scott Hill at  
 scott@k6ix.net or 559-658-2342.*

See the newsletter in **COLOR** at: YosemiteDems.net

*Mortimer Mouse Sez...*

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person  
 \$15.00 family  
 Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

\_\_\_ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person

\_\_\_ New Member or \_\_\_ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing** Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical** 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
PO Box 5008-268		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010		(559) 658-2342