



YosemiteDems.net

**The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
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The Mountain Democrat

**February - March
2014**

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The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Oakhurst Democratic Club and the Mariposa Democratic Club, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

February 2014

Feb 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Feb 8: Mariposa Club Meeting

March 2014

Mar 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Mar 8: Mariposa Club Meeting

CONTACT US

Mariposa Democratic Club
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Cover Photo
Snow Plant in Yosemite
Sarcodes sanguinea
Wikipedia
Elizabeth George

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

YosemiteDems.net or MariposaDemocraticClub.org

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS for Madera and Mariposa Counties

Letters and telephone calls GET THEIR ATTENTION. You will probably only get a form letter in response, but your opinion will count. Here are some of the people you might want to contact to let them know the opinion of some of the people they represent.

US Senator Dianne Feinstein
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4290
Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: (559) 485-7430

US Senator Barbara Boxer
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 5290
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 497-5109

US Congressman (District 4) Tom McClintock
8700 Auburn-Folsom Road, Suite 100
Granite Bay, CA 95746
Phone: (916) 786-5560

State Assembly (District 5) Member Frank Bigelow
State Capitol, Suite #4116
Sacramento, CA 94249-0005
(916) 319-2005

State Senate (District 8) Member Tom Berryhill
State Capitol, Room 3076
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.651.4014

KEEP THOSE CARDS AND CALLS GOING

Chances With Francis

By Peter Cavanaugh

Phil Everly has left us at 74.

He got me into trouble at 17.

When I was a young DJ in Syracuse during my senior year at Cathedral Academy, a Catholic school I had faithfully attended from 5th Grade onward, Father Shannon called me into the Principal's office for committing a sex crime in public.

The good priest reported he had been listening to my Saturday night radio show over WNDR, Central New York's most listened-to station, when I played, "Wake Up Little Suzie" by The Everly Brothers—a horror rendering him instantly apoplectic.

It was surely a Mortal Sin to have done so; he droned on, since the song "strongly suggested that a boy and girl were sleeping together without having partaken in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony", an interpretation that had never remotely dawned on me or any of my classmates, particularly since the song's lyrics stressed exactly the opposite.

Sierra Star readers may note that my "For Your Consideration" colleague, Alan Cheah, submitted a wonderful column in the January 2nd issue heralding several initial achievements of Pope Francis the First during his first year as Pontiff, even as I also had the pleasure of referencing many promising signs indicating positive reform in the Catholic Church when Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was first elected back in March – becoming the first Jesuit Pope in history.

Consider these Papal quotes:

Chances With Francis (continued)

"Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor, so that they are not abandoned to the laws of an economy that seems at times to treat people as mere consumers."

"If a person is gay and seeks the Lord and has good will, well, who am I to judge them?"

"I have met many Marxists who are good people."

"Those who struggle to find a past that no longer exists—they have a static and inward view of things."

"No to a financial system, which rules rather than serves. Behind this attitude lurks a rejection of ethics and a rejection of God."

"Some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power."

And my personal favorite— "I have never been a right-winger."

To be sure, my own spiritual perspective still remains at sharp variance with many "traditional" teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, finding myself much more aligned with the visionary brilliance of theologian and evolutionary theorist, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, whose "Phenomenon of Man" remains, in my estimation, a philosophical masterpiece.

Chances With Francis (continued)

Father de Chardin was a famous French paleontologist, mystic and—Jesuit.

He was a favorite of Daniel Berrigan, S.J., former Federal fugitive and “Radical Priest” of the ‘60’s—the most demanding teacher I ever had during my four years at Le Moyne College.

So, although there’s great distance to go, I find myself delighted quoting this new Pope to conservative friends at every turn, happy he’s at home in Rome—quite content taking my chances with Francis.



A Sad Passing

With heavy hearts, we announce that long-time Oakhurst Democratic Club member and devoted Democrat Jerry Cavin passed away on December 17th. He and his wife, Billie, were very active in the Oakhurst club in its early years of formation, sponsoring “Meet and Greets” for then-Congressional candidate, TJ Cox, and developing the first of our club’s Get Out the Vote campaigns, personally making thousands of phone calls and organizing other club members in election efforts.

Jerry and Billie had to relocate to Manteca a few years ago, but continued their club membership and support for our club’s activities.

We extend our deepest condolences to Billie and her family, and send them our thoughts and prayers.

Your personal condolences can be sent to:

The Cavin Family
2342 Belle Glade Lane
Manteca, CA 95336

Democrats Elect Democrats

By Les Marsden

It's one of our most important priorities. And that applies even when the elective office is non-partisan, as is the case with County Supervisors.

Last summer I received a call from my friend and lifelong Democrat Karen Smith. With the potential retirement of District One Supervisor Lee Stetson, Karen was seriously considering a 2014 run for the seat but first wanted to discuss it with me as I've (not so secretly) been touted as a candidate—and the worst possible thing would be two Democrats dividing the district vote and thereby ensuring the win for a Republican. I was thrilled to hear of Karen's interest in running and immediately offered her my full support, endorsement and assistance. She was and remains, hands down, the best candidate we Democrats could hope for. Her public announcement was made soon thereafter in regional media, including the front page of the Mariposa Gazette last September.

Let me tell you a little about my friend Karen Smith. For years a regular weekender, she and husband Dr. Michael Martin moved to Mariposa full-time in 2002, immediately plunging themselves into community volunteerism. In the past 12 years, Karen has served many organizations including (as Board Director) the JC Fremont Hospital Foundation, the American Association of University Women and Mariposa Rotary; she's a member of (among others) Friends of the Fairgrounds, the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce and the Mariposa County Arts Council. Her volunteer accomplishments for Mariposa are many; her most recent (and notable) one will result in a free community fitness park on the grounds of JC Fremont Hospital designed to promote overall community wellness.

Her platform is a compendium of issues near and dear to your and my Democratic hearts, and in her case, it's not mere lip service.

Democrats Elect Democrats (continued)

It's what she's BEEN doing and what she'll continue to do as District One Supervisor: standing up, unflinchingly for our environment. Keeping the Merced River scenic and wild. Seeking new sources of grants to fund water and ecosystem protection. Supporting Mariposa's economic diversity and sustainability—including (but not limited to) tourism and our enviable role as the home of Yosemite. It's no surprise Karen will avidly continue to work on behalf of rural healthcare issues including affordable senior housing. She's as concerned as am I with our county infrastructure and not only our roads but with improving cell coverage and broadband. And of COURSE, with our public safety, law enforcement and other first responders including our volunteer fire protection. I've only noted the tip of the iceberg.

Karen gained valuable governmental insight while working for the Mariposa County Office of Administration and has notably served as (volunteer) Project Manager for District Four Supervisor Kevin Cann. She gained years of immeasurable experience working not only with Mariposa County administration, but directly with department heads, outside contractors and agencies – including Caltrans. Her accounting degree will stand her in good stead as Supervisor in future Mariposa County budgeting issues. Many of you know of my passion and work on behalf of local economic development; you'll be pleased to know that Karen is the appointed civilian alternate to the Central Sierra Economic Development District. Karen worked for many years in marketing for an international firm and also in software development as part of a database management team; her government employment ranges from the Pentagon to the Defense Language Institute and Monterey's Naval Postgraduate School.

(Professor) Dr. Michael Martin is Chair of the Merced River Conservation Committee and has led the charge against McClintock's (and Denham's) efforts to raise the spillway at Lake McClure. Like his wife, Michael's an avid environmentalist.

Democrats Elect Democrats (continued)

Both are lifelong Democrats (except for periods when they briefly re-registered strategically as Republicans or American Independents in order to affect primary elections) whose credentials as active Democrats are impeccable and beyond reproach.

But beyond all her stunning qualifications for the seat, it's Karen's personality that speaks volumes. She works well with others. She respects others. We certainly do not need iconoclasts, or those who don't do their homework or those who run due to ego—the wrong reasons so many often seek public office. She has not only my endorsement but that of a great many other Mariposans, both prominent and the not so well-known. Democrats, Republicans and DTS voters. Perhaps most notable: she has earned the enthusiastic endorsement of notable Democrat and outgoing District One Supervisor Lee Stetson as his successor. Karen Smith is an extraordinary person who will do extraordinary things for Mariposa County. Get to know her as I do and you'll see what I mean.



Karen Smith

A Fresh New Voice for Mariposa Citizens

By Lucille Apar

I write to endorse enthusiastically, a just announced candidacy for Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, to replace retiring supervisor of District I, Lee Stetson. Her name is Rosemarie Smallcombe, she lives in Jerseydale with husband Steve Smallcombe, in an eye-poppingly environmentally oriented home (excuse the superlatives) the unique construction of which they personally supervised from foundation up.

No question you will be hearing from her over the next few months. But before that happens let me give you a little briefing.

A newcomer to this area, but by no means a newcomer to the Sierra foothills, I have for the past two years had the pleasure of serving under Rosemarie on the Executive Board of the Mariposa Democratic Club. What impresses me the most is her concern and enthusiasm for the constituents, not just of the Midpines District I, but Mariposa as a whole.

And may I point out, the representation of one district and the votes of that district, also affects the entire County, something that should concern us all. My feeling is that she will use that power with discretion and understanding of the many concerns that affect the citizens of Mariposa.

If elected (and I hope she will be), her task will be a hefty one. I will not enumerate here the many and sometimes controversial undertakings of this Board. But I feel certain Rosemarie Smallcombe will tackle them head on.

So to the citizens of District I, please give Rosemarie Smallcombe your vote. And to all voting citizens: Your vote counts, do not fail to VOTE.

Smallcombe Announces for District 1 Supervisor
Fire safety, jobs and grant acquisition to be focus of campaign
By Steve Smallcombe

Rosemarie Smallcombe today announced that she has formed a campaign committee to support her in becoming the next County Supervisor from District 1.

“Service to community is one of my core beliefs, not just an easy phrase,” she said. “I started volunteering with the Head Start Program in high school and have since volunteered in a variety of organizations, from working a suicide and crisis hotline to serving on non-profit boards. My demonstrated commitment to the community, success in building relationships among groups with varied interests, and experience solving complex problems will benefit District 1 and Mariposa County.”

Known within District 1 for her efforts to protect John C. Fremont Hospital from state budget cuts, protection of the Wild and Scenic designation for the lower Merced River and working with Troy Foster to save the 2012 Labor Day Parade, Rosemarie brings a professional resume she says will benefit the people of District 1 and Mariposa County.

“Because we love this place, when I see a problem, I do my best to solve it,” she said. A glance at her professional background shows why.

“I spent my professional life solving problems for high tech companies in Silicon Valley. My job was to understand business goals and evaluate them against laws and regulations and ensure my companies were successful. I know how to help business find ways to accomplish their goals by working with government,” she said.

With family roots in Colorado agriculture, Rosemarie understands the challenges of managing and protecting the land and the

environment. “My father owned a cattle ranch in the Rocky Mountains and he taught me a deep love for the land. As an independent rancher, keeping his business going required hard work and dedication. I also inherited my work ethic from my parents.”

Helping small business and developing the economy, while preserving the rural character of the region, is a priority for Rosemarie. “Resource protection and job creation are not mutually exclusive—they should be partners. We are paying a price for the success of Smokey Bear and a century of fire suppression,” she stated. “Establishing fire safe zones and reducing fuel loads can be done responsibly and create jobs,” she concluded.

According to Rosemarie, Mariposa County needs to be more proactive in pursuing state, federal and private grants. “Resources are available to help our community in several areas. To name a few: reducing fuel loads, increasing wifi/internet access, more job training and job development. It is time for us to take advantage of more of the funding opportunities that exist. I will make it one of my top priorities as Supervisor.”

Rosemarie and her husband of almost thirty years, Steve, make their home in Jerseydale, a place they chose to live after spending time in the area and getting to know the people. “Like most we fell in love with the beauty of area, but once we started meeting all the truly wonderful people here, we knew this was the place for us.” They spend time enjoying the outdoors, tending to their menagerie of rescue dogs, cats and other animals, and volunteering for a number of local organizations.

“Serving the people of District 1 would be a privilege,” says Rosemarie. “I want to give back to the community that I call home.”

More about Rosemarie Smallcombe can be found at her website:
<http://rosemariesmallcombe.com/>

November 2013 California Executive Board (E-Board) Report

Rosemarie Smallcombe

At the E- Board meeting in Millbrae, the two hottest topics were:

(1) A hotly debated proposed amendment to the CDP By-Laws to prevent “Stacking” —a practice by which CDP leaders influence the outcome of an endorsement vote in one district by sending voting delegates from another district.

(2) Competing resolutions regarding the future of Drake’s Bay Oyster Company—interesting debate, but not immediately relevant to Mariposa.

The proposed amendment to the By-Laws pitted many grassroots activists against some in the party leadership. The passion on each side was diffused when the two sides agreed to form a task force, including representatives from both sides, which will develop a recommendation for consideration at the E-Board meeting in July 2014. This effort could have left some very bitter feelings on both sides, but it didn’t because the two sides agreed to work together.

The Rural Caucus hosted a panel presentation on Education, emphasizing implications for rural counties of changes that are occurring statewide. Christina Oborn and I worked together to define the topics—California’s Adoption of Common Core Standards, the Local Control Funding Formula and associated Local Accountability Plans, Career Technical Education and Superintendent Torlakson’s Healthy Kids Initiative. We had three great panelists and the presentations were so successful, the Rural Caucus has asked for an encore presentation at the convention this spring. These are all very important topics and Christina and I plan to make more information available to you.

You’ll be glad to know that the Voter Services Committee is very active—even here in California—including efforts to close loopholes in the California Voting Rights Act that could be used to

limit voter access, voter registration drives at immigration swearing in services, increased focus on county level elections and providing registration training materials.

The CDP is preparing to modify the state party platform at the convention next spring. The Draft Report will be available no later than January 15, 2014. If you believe changes should be made to the platform, now is your chance...

At the DNC Executive Committee meeting in New Orleans, which overlapped with the California E-Board meeting, Debbie Wasserman Schultz followed up on her 4 point plan for next year:

1. Run good campaigns and message our story. People are on our side and the Republican rebuild has failed.
2. Continue to build our advantage over the Republicans in technology and data.
3. Increase efforts to stop voter suppression and fight the states that are doing this.
4. Hold the Republicans accountable (shutdown, ACA, etc.)

Lowell Young, Steve and I have attended two E-Board meetings and want to ensure that you’re aware of what occurs at them. Please do comment on the content quality and quantity in this report so we can improve subsequent editions.



Rosemarie Smallcomb

Report from Lowell Young, AD Rep.

In the last issue of The Mountain Democrat, I began introducing you to our State Party's 2012 platform with its preamble. In this issue, we will learn about the Party's platform on Business and the Economy.

The Obama administration began with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The Democratic Party, with no minority party support, gave our country the greatest economic stimulus package in history, which has created and saved millions of jobs.

California Democrats are dedicated to a robust economy and business climate that creates jobs and economic opportunity for all as well as the tax base for the programs and policies we champion. We recognize that America has always been the Land of Opportunity. This is largely due to the fact that an individual can start a small business and with hard work and good ideas can share in the American Dream. Government must work to preserve that opportunity for citizens to start small businesses and have a reasonable opportunity for success. We support the development of programs by Cities, Counties, States, and Federal agencies to provide greater contracting opportunities to small businesses. We support direct lending programs to small businesses by government agencies including the SBA.

To grow jobs and assure a prosperous future for all Californians, California Democrats will:

Not shrink in our duties to create sustainable jobs for future generations but instead support the research, development and implementation of green electrical generation and transportation and communication technologies with some combination of tax credits, low-interest loans/loan guarantees and grants and that encourage the conservation and sustainability of natural resources in order to prevent future conflicts regarding scarce resources;

Report from Lowell Young, AD Rep. (continued)

Take steps to encourage the sustainable growth of small businesses which will serve as the backbone of California's economic recovery. Promote and guarantee low-interest small business loans to provide the seed capital to launch and expand job-creating small businesses and provide for the growth of already successful businesses;

Prevent irresponsible lenders from doing business in California. Promote the investigation of the viability of the creating State-owned bank while also educating the public about credit unions and promoting the expansion of existing community bank and credit union programs for state and local funds;

Facilitate improved banking services for small businesses and consumers by supporting legislation that offers community banks and credit unions incentives for implementing new technologies;

Defend consumer banking free choice by supporting legislation to eliminate out of network ATM fees and to prevent the imposition of bank fees for use of debit cards;

Demand that banks that received TARP funds deliver on providing foreclosure relief. Support a legislative initiative to provide foreclosure relief to borrowers who were the victims of unscrupulous loan brokers or unconscionable banking practices. In addition, the state needs to investigate and fund prosecutions, where appropriate, into private lender and/or mortgage broker abuses, including but not limited to redlining and the unauthorized bait and switch tactic of replacing fixed rate financing with ARMs;

Support the separation of retail and investment banking in order to safeguard Californians with current deposits in such banks from speculative investment activities and to free-up capital for loans to businesses and individuals. Strengthen the state agencies that provide regulatory oversight of banks as well as utilities;

Report from Lowell Young, AD Rep. (continued)

Support the rights of all employees to organize, select a bargaining representative of their choice through card check recognition, work in a safe environment and be free from intimidation and retaliation tactics;

Oppose privatization of essential government services and outsourcing of public sector jobs, promote the development and purchase of goods that are made in America, and support the modification of the US tax code so that corporations have incentive to hire workers in the U.S. instead of abroad;

Encourage an investment in California's infrastructure in a way that will support the state's growth through the 21st Century and beyond; including supporting the efforts to bring high-speed rail to the state, facilitating the movement of Californians around the state while securing thousands of jobs for our workers;

Reward employers that, instead of moving out of state, choose to remain in California and can show a reasonable likelihood of significant sales and job growth, by giving the California Treasurer/Board of Equalization the right to negotiate a competitive package of discounted state-based fees and/or taxes to offset some of the employer's anticipated cost savings from moving the business out of California;

Support the adoption of a Universal Health Care plan for all Californians so that California employers will not have to bear the cost burden of being the principal providers of health care and medical care to injured workers through the workers compensation policies they purchase.

This report will be continued in the next issue of *The Mountain Democrat*. To see the entire report go to:

<http://www.cadem.org/resources?id=0003>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) \$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person
(Jul. 1 - Jun 30)

___ 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: _____

Supervisory 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