



**YosemiteDems.net**

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



# **THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT**

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**August –  
September  
2015**

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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**

**August 2015**

Aug 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting  
Aug 8: Mariposa Club Meeting

**September 2015**

Sep 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting  
Sep 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

**CONTACT US**

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Cover  
**bush anemone**  
*Carpenteria californica*  
Kurt Stüber  
Wikipedia

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](http://YosemiteDems.net) or [MariposaDemocraticClub.org](http://MariposaDemocraticClub.org)

**PLEASE RENEW  
FINAL ISSUE**

**If this label is on the cover of your newsletter  
it means that our records indicate your 2015 - 2016  
club dues have not been paid.**

It's time for **Oakhurst** Democratic Club members to renew!  
Please fill out the form below and send it with a check to:

**Oakhurst Democratic Club**  
PO Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Dues for the Oakhurst Club are \$5.00 per person, but please consider donating extra to help us do more!

## Congressman Strangelove

By Peter Cavanaugh



There they were—right in his face—a half dozen Confederate flags hatefully hoisted by presidential protestors taunting Barack Obama’s arrival in Oklahoma City with scorn and ridicule.

However abhorrent, it’s shameful such open, mocking antagonism nonetheless represents a dramatic measure of honest expression notably absent in the more hidden depths of national political intrigue.

The Republican Party has been relentlessly dedicated to the downfall of President Obama ever since the night of his inauguration when key GOP leaders clandestinely met and agreed to oppose him at every opportunity.

Such obstinacy was again experienced in early March when 47 Republican senators sent a letter to Islamic leaders in Tehran saying that anything reached between Obama and Iran without the approval of Congress could be revoked by the next president. Now we witness new mindless opposition to an agreement reached by the United States and a coalition of world powers that would prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

That’s all the Republicans in Congress choosing probable war over possible peace—including our own Fourth District Representative Tom “Keep Me Out of Oakhurst” McClintock.

## Congressman Strangelove (continued)

As the Confederate Battle Flag mocked our President in Oklahoma City on Wednesday—McClintock similarly belittled him that very same day in the House of Representatives.

Tel Aviv Tom trilled: *“I don’t know how adequately to express my alarm and outrage at the President’s agreement with Iran. It is a breathtakingly dangerous act. Some have compared it to Neville Chamberlain’s Munich Accord with Nazi Germany, but that doesn’t fully illustrate the danger.”*

What nonsense.

Weren’t Iraq and Afghanistan enough, Mr. McClintock?

The proposed Iranian accord is not merely “the President’s agreement.” It is first and foremost an understanding painstakingly reached after two years of negotiations between Iran and the United States, France, China, Russia, The United Kingdom and Germany. That’s like obtaining complete unanimity on any given subject among all relatives in attendance at your next Thanksgiving Dinner—even the ones who’ve been drinking.

History teaches that friendship—or at least reasonable conviviality—eventually evolves more times than not between our country and former enemies—past foes such as France, China, Russia, The United Kingdom and Germany.

We should also bear in mind that “The State of Israel” is NOT Benjamin Netanyahu, a ruthless politician who barely maintained a tenuous hold as Prime Minister in recent elections, resorting to an outright lie the night before balloting started in pledging to abandon support of a Palestinian State, only to completely reverse his public position after retaining office. This man can be a trusted friend?

Congressman Strangelove (continued)

President Obama said it best in an extended press conference held the day following announcement of the accord when he stated:

*“Either the issue of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon is resolved diplomatically through a negotiation or it’s resolved through force, through war. Those are the options.”*

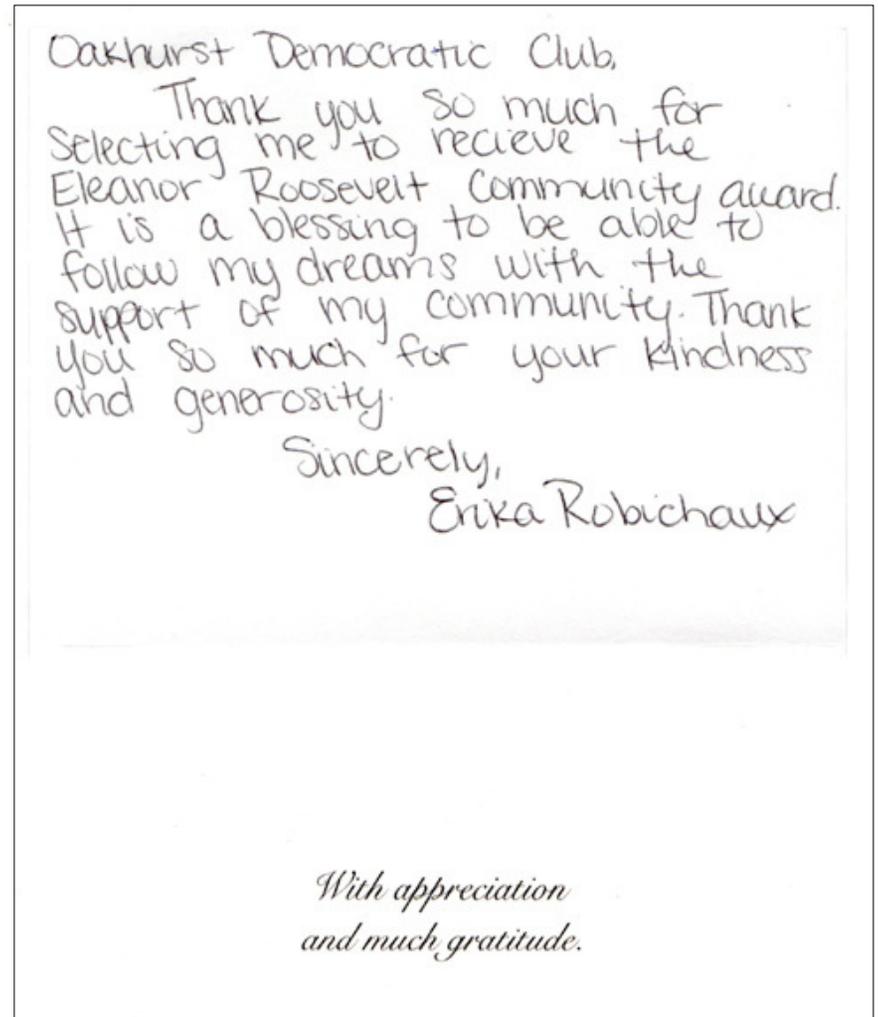
Force isn’t even a true option. That just doesn’t work anymore. We can bomb them, strafe them, knife them, shoot them, strangle them, drown them, poison them, torture them, kill them in any manner imaginatively contrived—and it won’t win us anything except reciprocal atrocities leading up to potential planetary annihilation...

With Tom McClintock joyfully astride that first big nuke plunging toward Moscow below, waving his cowboy hat in orgasmic bliss like Slim Pickens in *“Doctor Strangelove.”*



From Oakhurst Student Award Winner

**Erika Robichaux**



## Mariposa's Unofficial Motto

By Les Marsden

“Above the fog, below the snow,  
And delightfully behind the times.”

Sure, I get it—and though our Jerseydale home is delightfully (usually) ABOVE the snowline (when there's any snow to be had); being behind the times ain't always a great bragging point.

One example: do you know the last time a Democratic candidate won the majority vote in a presidential general election in Mariposa County? It's been more than 50 years—the 1964 election of LBJ. (Carter in 1976 and Clinton in 1992 won a plurality of the Mariposa County vote, not a majority.) And before you go gettin' all high-and-mighty on me, dear friends in Oakhurst, Coarsegold and environs: in 1992 Bush (senior) actually beat Clinton in Madera County; at least Mariposa got that one right!

As we begin the 2016 Presidential campaigns in earnest, let's promise that though we may disagree in the primary, we'll unite enthusiastically behind our party's candidate in next year's general election. I'll stick it out there: I'm thrilled by Bernie Sanders and am supporting his campaign with effort, cash and no small amount of awe. His lengthy populist record of putting the people first, first and first is unparalleled. As we debate the best Democrat for our general election candidate, let's remember that even the worst Democrat towers over the best Republican—an important point for we unfortunates in this scenically beautiful but politico-philosophically backwards red region.

I remember the April 27 – 29, 2007 California Democratic Party convention in San Diego; we were treated to an astonishing number of 2008 Democratic Presidential candidates who wowed us in varying degrees: Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Mike Gravel,

## Mariposa's Unofficial Motto (continued)

Dennis Kucinich (I had a great discussion with Dennis and wife Elizabeth re: his Department of Peace initiative at a private event,) Chris Dodd, John Edwards (a particularly thrilling orator for the downtrodden—despite his own wretched downfall not too many years later) and of course, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Supporters' minor differences were sometimes to grow massive over the 13 months before the June 3, 2008 primary in which Obama eked out a victory over Hillary Clinton. I recall the outrage by some on the Clinton side who vowed NEVER to vote for Obama; such was their dedication to their candidate. Fortunately, by the November general election most (but not all) supporters' wounds had healed. We came together and Obama was elected. But what if our internal schism led to the election of McCain/Palin? It's a good time (therefore) to take note of the man already being appraised as the greatest President of modern times.

None have brought home to me Obama's truly tremendous impact quite like the simple “thank you” recently written by columnist Dick Meyer—take a look: <http://tinyurl.com/MeyerThanks> And impressive as they are, Meyer reminded me of perhaps Obama's most forgotten accomplishment: a scandal-free administration. The dishonesty, the discredit and embarrassments over the past 35 years beginning with Reagan (and including, sadly: Bill Clinton) made me nearly blasé to Oval Office misdeeds. Scandals were so ubiquitous that each NEW shock became par for the Presidential course. Until Obama. He is a courageous, scandal-free, calm and honorable president who pulled off a remarkable number of amazing achievements, all while the GOP was doing everything they could to deny Obama AND America so much positive good. Their opposition placed party and partisanship over true patriotism, jealousy and greed over America. Just as the right-wing tried without success to elevate Reagan to demi-god status (despite his abhorrent record) because you just can't hide the truth, they're

Mariposa's Unofficial Motto (continued)

failing miserably at lying about the monumentally successful Obama years. I'm reading my friend Barney Frank's excellent book "Frank"—and his evaluation of the Clintons, Obama—and in fact, the way his own accomplishments have been portrayed are pretty illuminative. And others' critical evaluations are also already establishing Obama's remarkable, incontrovertibly progressive imprint on America—as the GOP's true colors once again show why we've got to keep working to turn these mountains bright blue. And AHEAD of the times.



From Oakhurst Student Award Winner

**Emma Reda**

*May 20, 2015*

*Dear Oakhurst Democratic Club,*

*I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Oakhurst Democratic Club Award possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor, and I am deeply appreciative of your support.*

*I am currently majoring in kinesiology (the scientific study of human movement) with hopes of becoming an athletic trainer. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.*

*Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise to work hard and eventually give back to others, both on and off the field.*

*Sincerely,  
Emma Reda*

## Let Us Have Peace

By Lucille Apar

Some five or six hundred years ago, the Shah of Persia, (now known as Iran), crossed the border between his country and another tiny neighbor and abducted several hundred families, some say forcibly (but of this I am not sure) and brought them into central Persia. They were not slaves. They were artisans, rug makers, jewelers, poets and musicians, fine painters and spinners of silks and wool. And they were Armenian Christians

There, in Persia, they formed their own communities, built their churches, practiced their religion, farmed the land, and pursued their arts. Many of their descendants continue there today, living peacefully among their Muslim neighbors. The towns of New Julfa, named after their original home, and Shiraz still remain home to these people. While subsequent rulers were not as benign as the original, their customs, language and religion are not subject to persecution, for all intents and purposes, today they are Iranians of Armenian descent.

Iran therefore is not a sectarian torn Iraq, nor is it a tribal rifted Afghanistan. Although controlled now by overzealous religious factions, years of subjugation to a selfish royal family that plundered the land in striking similarity to the Tsars of Russia, can be attributed as the main cause of the country's upheaval. That the Western nations supported their royalty is undoubtedly the reason for the enmity that exists in the present time. Perhaps other incendiary actions also triggered this present attitude towards the west; it is not in my expertise to speculate nor to offer solutions.

But today with an impending treaty that took many months and even years to reach, a treaty that means peace, not war, it is especially important to understand that in event of war we will be

## Let us Have Peace (continued)

dealing with a very different foe. And that is the reason for my appeal to the American people.

I have faith in the people of America. And somehow or another, in spite of all the loud and sustained rhetoric, in spite of the warmongers, in spite of Netanyahu of Israel trying to force us to fall into his trap, in spite of the weapons industry salivating over the prospect of another lengthy war, the American people will prevail.

No more wars that cannot be won. No more broken bodies coming home. No more parentless children growing up with only a photograph of their father or their mother. Our State Department, headed by hardworking John Kerry, has done a yeoman's job, reaching an agreement almost unattainable less than a year ago.

Now let us do our part and prove that faith in the negotiations that have resulted in the proposed treaty.

Let us have Peace.



From Yosemite High School



Yosemite High School  
(Home of the Badgers)

50200 Road 427  
Oakhurst, California 93644

Randall M. Seals, Principal  
Telephone: 559)683-4667  
Fax: 559)683-8392

June 12, 2015

Oakhurst Democratic Club  
Scholarship Committee  
P. O. Box 760  
Oakhurst, CA 93644

Dear Oakhurst Democratic Club:

Thank you for participating in the Yosemite High School Community Awards. We appreciate the years you've been a part of the program. I know that Emma Reda was honored to receive your \$500 award!

On behalf of the Yosemite High School staff, Emma and the Class of 2015, we thank you!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Ratchford  
Community Awards Coordinator

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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