



El Cerrito Democratic Club

Newsletter – September 2021

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ECDC

PO Box 192

El Cerrito CA 94530

Newsletter Editor: William Ktsanes

1. Agenda for the Tuesday, September 28th ECDC General Meeting

Link to Join the ECDC Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84303785299?pwd=bUFyY3VHVXFYTEZaR3YvSIN4dUpQQT09>

ZOOM Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Passcode: 111652

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,84303785299# or +14086380968,,84303785299#

Dial in by phone: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968

Meeting ID: 843 0378 5299

Agenda

6:20 pm – Assemble and Mingle

6:30 pm – Call to Order

6:35 pm – Approve Minutes from the August Meeting (**Action Item**)

6:39 pm – Officer Reports – Treasurer, Membership, Events, Newsletter, Website, Secretary

6:45 pm – DPCCC Report

6:50 pm – ECDC Diversity Committee Presentation

7:00 pm – Program: The Poor People's Campaign

7:50 pm – Good of the Order

8:00 pm – Adjourn

The ECDC General Meeting is regularly scheduled from 6:30-8:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. While Covid-19 precautions prevent us from meeting in person, we encourage you join the Zoom call a few minutes early to mix-and-mingle with fellow ECDC members.

2. September General Meeting Preview – Poor People’s Campaign

For our September meeting, the ECDC will host a presentation from The Poor People’s Campaign. In 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others called for a “revolution of values” in America. They sought to build a broad, fusion movement that could unite poor and impacted communities across the country. Their name was a direct cry from the underside of history: The Poor People’s Campaign.

Today, the “Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival” has picked up this unfinished work. From Alaska to Arkansas, the Bronx to the border, people are coming

together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. We understand that as a nation we are at a critical juncture — that we need a movement that will shift the moral narrative, impact policies and elections at every level of government, and build lasting power for poor and impacted people.

ECDC will host a conversation with local members of the campaign to explain their principles and priorities. They will also share what residents can do to further their mission and goals.

- Carolyn Wysinger

3. August 24th ECDC Meeting Notes and Video Link to the El Cerrito Plaza BART Presentation

6:20 pm – ECDC General Membership Meeting assembled and mingled

6:34 pm – President Greg Lyman called the meeting to Order

Minutes

Motion: to waive notice requirement. Motion: Jonee Grassi, Second: Janet Abelson, passed unanimously.

June minutes: Motion: Rita Xavier, Second: Neil Tsutsui, passes unanimously.

July minutes: Motion: Betty Brown, Second Janet Abelson, 23 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Club paid \$500 for No on Recall signs. Janet Abelson generated \$600 more in donations. She noted that there are 5 signs left. There are door hangers available. Greg Lyman noted he has PDI software that can track houses if volunteers want to use it when they distribute the hangers. Jonee Grassi and Veronica Warheit will be bringing signs to the Farmer's Market. Gabe Qunito will be handing out door hangers to Del Norte BART.

Membership: 153 members!

Events: The October 16th Annual Meeting will be virtual event: A question for members: Are we interested in doing delivered goodie bags or UBER eats code for food delivery. Carolyn Wysinger will look into union friendly, business friendly options.

Newsletter: No report

Website: No report

Secretary: Margaret Kavanaugh-Lynch reported that the Club minutes are now up to date and the Facebook website is going well.

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Report

Champagne Brown stressed the need to Stop the Recall.

ECDC Diversity Committee Report

Y'Anad Burrell reported that Color Theory is the new book the committee will be reading.

Program

Greg Lyman introduced the Holliday Development Group with Jamie Hiteshew and Related California with Anne Silverberg, Andrew Schorfhaar and Nick Wilder. Two of the partners that will be part of the development. They presented a preliminary concept for El Cerrito BART station development. The presentation included a lengthy question and answer period.

Below is a video link to their presentation:

[El Cerrito Plaza BART Development Presentation to ECDC's August 24, 2021 Meeting](#)

Good of the Order – None

8:11pm – Meeting adjourned

- Greg Lyman

4. Future Events – *Mark Your Calendar!*

ECDC September General Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 28th (4th Tuesday of the month); remote via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>

Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Annual Barbeque – 11:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday, October 2nd

Health Care for All - Alameda & Contra Costa Counties Zoom Meeting – 3:00-5:00 pm, Sunday, October 3rd

October ECDC Virtual Dinner and Presentation from California State Attorney General Rob Bonta – 7:00-8:30 pm, Saturday, October 16th (*Corrected Date!*); remote via Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>

East Bay Peace Action Conversation about the Intersection of Racism and Militarism with Brittany Ramos DeBarros – 2:00-3:00 pm, Sunday, October 17th

ECDC September General Meeting – 6:30 pm, Tuesday, October 26th (4th Tuesday of the month); remote via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280246407>

boycott. Shortly thereafter, they moved to a trailer in La Paz, in the Tehachapi Mountains outside Bakersfield that served as the headquarters for the United Farm Workers movement. Rob's parents worked alongside Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and Philip Vera Cruz, organizing Latino and Filipino farmworkers for racial, economic, and civil rights. His dad worked in the front office and helped set up health clinics for the farmworkers, while his mother worked at the daycare, Casa de Nana, to support farmworker organizer families. Rob's padrino, or godfather, Jose Gomez, was the Executive Assistant to Cesar Chavez.

Growing up, Rob had been inspired by characters like Atticus Finch in "To Kill A Mockingbird" to pursue justice through the law. Throughout college and in his community work, he saw injustice and the power to right wrongs through the law, and after college, he was accepted to Yale Law School. There, he debated the law and current events with classmates and friends like Cory Booker, Gina Raimondo, and Stacey Abrams. After law school, Rob served nine years as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office.

Now, as California's State Attorney General and chief law officer, Rob strives to be the "attorney for the people," winning justice for California families and holding accountable those who break the law – especially those in positions of power. He knows that enforcing the law and public service is about helping people, making people's lives better, and improving the human condition.

6. Special Thanks to All Who Worked to Defeat the Recall of Governor Newsom

As we all know by now, the largely-Republican led and hugely expensive effort to recall Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom was soundly defeated on September 14th. Many among us worked diligently to defeat the recall – going door-to-door talking to our neighbors, passing out flyers, putting up yard signs, canvassing at farmers markets and BART stations, calling voters, etc. Although the results will not be certified by the California Secretary of State until mid-October, current tallies have 71.5% voting "No" to the recall, significantly higher than the 61.9% of votes Governor Newsom received when he was elected in 2018. While recall proponents and the Republican Party hoped to capitalize on low voter turnout that's typically associated with a special election, turnout was surprisingly high, with 64.2% of registered voters voting, just slightly less than the 64.5% who voted in the 2018 general election.

The ECDC extends a huge "Thank You!" to all of those who volunteered their time and made contributions in support of Governor Newsom and the democratic process.

- William Ktsanes

7. Democratic Party of Contra Costa County Annual Barbeque – 11:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday, October 2nd

The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC) will host a barbeque and gathering next Saturday, October 2nd. It's a great opportunity to strengthen our community and friendships as we connect and reconnect "in person" – *and lots of fun!* We'll be joined by Dan Pfeiffer—Contra Costa resident, Democratic Party activist and former senior advisor to President Obama.

When: 11 am - 5 pm, Saturday, October 2nd

Where: Pleasant Hill Park
147 Gregory Lane
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Tickets: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dpccc2021bbq>

Directions: [Google Map Link to Pleasant Hill Park](#)

Special Guest Announcement: Dan Pfeiffer

Former Obama Senior Advisor, Co-host Pod Save America, CNN Political Contributor,
and Author of "Yes We (Still) Can", and "Un-Trumping America."

SPECIAL FOOD BANK REQUEST:

- Please bring 4 food items for the Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank donation bin (most needed below):
- Natural Peanut Butter
- Hearty Low-Sodium Soups
- Beans and Lentils (dry or canned)
- Canned Tuna and Chicken in Water
- Canned Fruit in Juice
- Low-Sodium Canned Vegetables
- Brown Rice
- Whole Wheat/Grain Pasta
- Canned Tomato Products



DPCCC ANNUAL BBQ

Event Info:

Picnic Area #1

- Meat & Vegan Food: individually packaged with main item, sides and dessert (Provided by Cindy Gershin)
- Outdoors with sign-in
- Photo wall
- Variety of drinks
- Cornhole game & bubble machine!
- Guest Speakers (feat. DPCCC Chair)
- Music
- Honoring our gracious sponsors



Saturday October 2nd, 2021
12 - 4p
Pleasant Hill Community Park, Area #1
147 Gregory Ln, Pleasant Hill

8. An Invitation from Health Care for All – California



Health Care for All - California

SINGLE-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Health Care for All - Contra Costa County

**Please join us at our
HCA - Alameda & Contra Costa Counties Zoom Meeting
Sunday, October 3, 2021 - 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

Links to the [draft agenda](#) and draft August [meeting notes](#).

Message from Chapter Co-Chairs

The Governor's Healthy California for All Commission has been busy this week discussing paths toward implementing a single-payer financing system in California. The next meeting is on Tuesday, September 28th. You can register and see recordings of previous meeting by going to: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/healthycforall/>.

We continue to work towards passage of California AB1400, which would legislate change to a single payer system. This bill will be reintroduced early next year. In the meantime, it is important that we continue to inform other organizations, community members, unions, and legislators about the important aspects of single payer financing and the bill.

We invite you to our October 3, 3:00 pm ZOOM HCA meeting at which we will discuss these items and the actions we can take to support a move toward a more equitable, efficient, affordable comprehensive health care system.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 818 1776 4134

Passcode: 320555

Thank you.

Susan Buckland and Janet Thomas^{SEP}
Co- Chairs, HCA - Contra Costa County Chapter

Dan Hodges
Chair, HCA - Alameda County Chapter

Membership

We can't do this without your support! Your membership provides vital funding for ongoing outreach to voters and public officials. Robust membership also demonstrates the depth of support for single-payer universal healthcare. You can either [join online](#) or [print a membership form](#) to mail in with a check.

9. An Invitation from East Bay Peace Action



WHAT DOES AN AFRO-LATINA PROGRESSIVE AFGHANISTAN
WAR VETERAN HAVE TO SAY ABOUT RACISM & MILITARISM?

Please join us via Zoom for

***RACISM & MILITARISM: AN HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT THE INTERSECTION
OF RACISM AND MILITARISM WITH BRITTANY RAMOS DEBARROS***



When and Where: 2-3 pm, Sunday, October 17, 2021; via Zoom (to register, [use this link](#))

Who: Brittany Ramos DeBarros is an activist, progressive Afro-Latina veteran who was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and former organizing director of About Face: Veterans Against the War.

What: Brittany brings unique insight into Racism and Militarism. Coming from a conservative, military family, she went to war believing the US wanted to help the Afghani people but came home feeling hurt, angry, and betrayed by a system that covered up greed and corruption with the veneer of freedom. When she spoke out, she was threatened with court martial.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://bit.ly/EBPA-21-10-17> or [use this link](#).

For more information call East Bay Peace Action at (510) 524-6071 or email eastbaypeaceaction@gmail.com

10. Rental Assistance Information from State Senator Nancy Skinner

State of California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program:

Now Covering 100% of Rent & Utilities for Income-Eligible Renters and Landlords

The State of California has increased funding for income-eligible renters and their landlords who have been impacted by COVID-19 to cover 100% of unpaid and future rent or utilities. This increase in rental assistance payments to 100% of unpaid rent will help make landlords whole and keep tenants housed.

You can verify your eligibility for the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program and apply immediately by visiting [HousingIsKey.com](https://housingiskey.com), or by calling 833.430.2122. Additionally, if you are an applicant who has already received funding through the program, you will be compensated the difference to receive 100% coverage – there is no need to re-apply!

California's critical eviction protections have also been extended for renters impacted by COVID-19, through September 30, 2021, to help keep vulnerable families housed.

Who Can Apply?

- **Renters:** If you are an income-eligible renter, you can apply on your own and receive financial assistance for unpaid rent, dating back to April 1, 2020, or help with future payments, even if your landlord doesn't participate.

If you are an income-eligible renter whose landlord does participate in the program, you will need to complete the joint application. Once your landlord applies, you will be notified to submit information to complete the application process.

- **Landlords:** If you are a landlord and participate in the COVID-19 Rent Relief program, you can get reimbursed directly for 100% of your eligible renters' unpaid rent, dating back to April 1, 2020.

What Help Can You Get?

- Assistance is available for 100% of unpaid rent and utilities, dating back to April 1, 2020, as well as future rent and utility payments. Utility payments will be paid directly to utility providers at 100% of cost but are limited to a total of 12 months.

What Else Should You Know?

- The application process has been significantly simplified. It now takes less time to complete, requires less paperwork to be uploaded, and offers helpful tips throughout the application.

Assistance from the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program does NOT count as earned income for renters and will NOT affect eligibility for any other California state benefit assistance programs, such as CalFresh and CalWORKS. All applicant information is kept private and will not be shared. Income-eligible applicants may qualify regardless of immigration status and will not be required to show proof of citizenship.

How to Apply:

- To check eligibility and apply, visit [HousingIsKey.com](https://housingiskey.com) or call 833.430.2122. Once your application has been processed, you will be notified about your application status and next steps.

If you need assistance in another language or need help checking eligibility, filling out your application or uploading paperwork, schedule an appointment with a local organization near you by calling 833.687.0967.

11. Membership Renewal Reminder and Instructions

Please remember to renew your Club membership – and many thanks to all who have renewed already! Dues are still just \$5 for students, \$20 for single members, and \$30 for two adults at same address.

You can renew online at: <https://ecdclub.org/join/> or mail a check to

ECDC Membership
PO Box 192
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Please make checks payable to “El Cerrito Democratic Club” and provide an email address for all individual members.

Memberships follow the calendar year, so your renewal now is good through December 31, 2021. If you have questions, please email Neil Tsutsui, ECDC’s Vice President for Membership, at: membership.ecdc@gmail.com. Thank you!

- Neil Tsutsui

12. Link to the ECDC Website and Bylaws

Periodically the Club updates our Bylaws. The bylaws were changed in October 2018 to meet DPCCC requirements; revisions were proposed and adopted during the January 2021 ECDC meeting. The ECDC Bylaws are posted on the ECDC website: <https://ecdclub.org/>