

Castro Valley Democratic Club Newsletter

May 21, 2016

2016 Officers

- President
Carole Georges
- Vice-President
John Maher
- Treasurer
Dolly Adams
- Rec. Secretary
Claudia McDonagh
- Corresponding Secretary
Dave Siegel
- Members At Large
Sonya Howes, Mary Swain

Mary Swain

Newsletter Editor

510-861-0859

mary.swain10@gmail.com

Contact Us: Our Website

<http://www.ebdir.net/cvdemos>

Our Next Meeting

Tues. May 24th 7pm

Faith Lutheran Church

Presidents Message

By Club President Carole Georges

Benghazi Hearings: A story of two taxi cab drivers

Last October I was on a trip to Ohio, Washington DC and Maryland. I found myself in D.C. the day before the Benghazi Hearings and decided I would try to go the next day. Congressional staffers told me to be there an hour early, so I was in a taxi early in the morning.

Traffic soon became heavy. When we got near Chevy Chase all exits were roped off. We arrived at an exit just as a motorcade pulled out of the exclusive enclave onto Wisconsin Ave. We were stuck for a while; then they diverted us past the Pentagon and eventually to the Capitol and the Senate Office building where the Hearings were to take place. Of course the diversion made us nearly an hour later and complicated my getting into hearing room. During the ride, the cabbie complained about the VIP's going to the Capitol and screwing up ordinary people by clogging traffic like this at least once a week. He reasoned that most people on the road this time of day were government workers who would be an hour late to work because of the VIP's diversion of traffic. He was pretty agitated about it. His solution, helicopter the VIP's in and "let the rest of us get to work". He said all these events on the Hill were show, the powerful competing with each other, putting on a show for the rest of us. I suggested he write a letter to the editor of one of the big newspapers. I felt guilty making the driver take me to the Capitol area with all the crowds, getting dropped off in front of photographers for one of their "shows". ***continued on Page 2

Rowell Ranch Parade Report

 By Helena Straughter

The 34th Annual Rowell Ranch Parade was brought to us by the Rotary Club of Castro Valley on Sat. May 14th. The parade kicked off at 10 am from Nunes Ave towards Castro Valley Blvd . The Club walked with Supervisor Nate Miley. Members present were Dolly, Jay, John Maher, Helena, and Marilee. We marched with the club banner, with lots of cheering spectators. We started a chant, "Vote, don't forget to Vote". Our club was allowed to set up a voter registration booth which was staffed by Sharon Morrison and Karen Swain Jusino. Supervisor Nate Miley had a large float, on which our member John McCarthy rode. At the reviewing stand they said that the Castro Valley Democratic Club is doing great things in the community!!! We want to thank all those who participated in this event.

Pres. Message cont. Benghazi: A story of 2 cab drivers**

There were many uniformed guards, officers and more photographers and TV crews out front, waiting for someone noteworthy to enter. I walked in, went up a flight of stairs to the entry way of the Hearings. More photographers, crew and equipment were inside. Just outside the door a woman was arguing with a guard. Her voice sounded familiar, and she was apparently incensed about not being allowed in. The official told her that all the people waiting in line were invited guests with tickets. She said that some have tickets and some don't. He told her that there was another line for the public at the other side of the building. I decided to go around to the other side. There was a long line of people waiting. They said they would let us all in once the doors opened until it was full so I decided to wait. I found a window ledge to sit on. After about 45 minutes the line finally started to move.

The hearing room was large with cameras set up mainly in front. People were walking to the Secretary's table and Committee chairs passing notes. After opening statements, Committee members launched in with questions. From Raskin, "Why were we in Libya?" Sec. Clinton's answer, "Our European allies beseeched us to come to their aid. They had come to help us in Afghanistan and Iraq and I wanted to respond when they needed help". Raskin seemed to think that it was all Hillary's idea and she had convinced the Arabs to join in.

Sec. Clinton pointed out that she had embraced all recommendations of previous investigating committees, creating a new security position to review all high risk posts. She made clear that while the State Dept. in D.C. had received info on increased danger in the Benghazi area, there was no actionable intelligence on which to proceed. The Republicans launched into building their narrative much as a prosecutor does. Ms. Brooks put a big pile of paper on the table and then a small pile to show the difference between the communications in 2011 and 2012 to advance the idea that after Khadaffi was toppled Clinton lost interest and left the Benghazi diplomatic mission neglected.

Congresswoman Duckworth threw several softball questions at Clinton. The Quadriennial reviews that DOD did while Duckworth was in the field as a lieutenant commanding troops were valuable and Clinton used them at State. It was pointed out that the Libyan Revolution really didn't want any foreign military in the country, even having the DS staffers and contractor ex-military bodyguards for Amb. Stevens made the Libyans uncomfortable.

The Republicans went back to their playbook, "Wasn't it true that by 2012 the Sec. had no vision for Libya for 2012 and beyond?" She pointed out that Elections were held and that as weapons proliferation began, Tom Midge and Bill Burns were sent to investigate. She also pointed out that Stevens wanted to stay, he chose to stay and was working to develop a Consulate in Benghazi. Ambassadors don't usually seek State Dept. permission to travel in the country to which they are assigned.

I decided to leave at noon. Later that day, I realized it was Jeannine Pirro, the District Attorney who ran against Hillary for Senate, that I had seen arguing at the door. That night, on the Fox Channel, I

watched her show. It was a total diatribe about Sec. Clinton the betrayer, liar, etc. No wonder they weren't welcoming Jeannine until a Republican intervened. She was there to do a hatchet job.

At the end of the trip, when we got in to Oakland International Airport, we went out to get a cab. Our cabbie was angry about his boss or dispatcher and spent the first few minutes mouthing off about him. His boss was not only unfair but mean. As he drove us onto the freeway, he said that he used to live in Castro Valley. He said he had 5 kids and couldn't afford the housing in CV anymore. He was now living in Oakland. I asked how he like where he lived now. He said that he had no choice with 5 kids. He had outbursts about his boss all the way to our house, in between saying that it was nice that we could go on vacation. He said that this was just a part time job and he was otherwise unemployed.

Reflecting on what the cabbies had to tell us; they know ordinary folks are being badly treated, but they believe we can't do anything about it. Is that true, or are we just too timid?

Right now, we have a major opportunity to do something about it, not only for the Presidency, but to take back the Senate and change the balance on the Supreme Court. The bigger the turnout of voters, the bigger the coat-tails that the Presidential candidate will have for the downballot races. A better Supreme Court and better Congress will open up greater opportunities for getting the money and the moneyed out of politics. To do this we need to Register Voters!

I am hugely happy to see our own Castro Valley members getting us some traction toward a big vote in November by registering young voters—at the CV Library, Chabot Community College and at upcoming events around town. Let's support the efforts of John McCarthy, Helena Straughter, Bob Swanson, Dave Siegel and others who volunteered at our April meeting to make time to register voters. I'm inviting you to join those efforts this Spring and Summer. Contact John or Helena or come to our meeting and sign up!

On Going Events:

Peace & Pizza- 2nd Friday of each Month, 7pm. 1533 B Street, Hayward. Progressive movies or speakers. Potluck!! Always thought provoking, Great People. 510-581-6118 for info

Coffee & Consciousness: 1st Saturday of each Month, 1:30 pm. Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant in Castro Village. Informal meeting with Dems Club and MoveOn members. Talk Politics, Fun Time! Call Sonya Howes for info 510-582-4818