



**Castro Valley Democratic Club**

**July 2014**

**Newsletter**

President-Dave Siegel

Corresponding Secretary-Carole Georges

Vice President- Helena Straughter

Newsletter- Mary Swain

Treasurer- John Maher

Members at Large: Dolly Adams, Sonya Howes

Rec. Secretary- Karl Hodges

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President's Message---Happy Summertime to our fellow Democrats. There are lots of fun events coming up including our CV Democratic Club Summer Picnic, Sunday July 20th!!! See attached flyer for details. Come support the club and meet elected officials and other active members of our club.

The CVDC will have our booth at the Castro Valley Fall Festival again this year on the weekend of Sept. 13-14. Help us running the booth for 2 hour shifts on either Saturday or Sunday. See one of the executive committee members at the picnic or e-mail us.

The Club is disappointed, to say the least, that our candidate for US House of Representatives, Ellen Corbett did not place second in the primary on June 3rd. Our Club executive committee will be meeting with the leaders of other local clubs to discuss the ways in which we at the local level can increase our electoral voice in upcoming elections. A secondary issue is to address unity with the other clubs and with the Alameda County Central Committee. We are concerned that there is a disconnect between the Democrats in the local clubs, the Alameda County Central Committee and the State of California Democratic Party.

The CVDC is blessed with many active members who represent the top minds of the local community. We look forward to seeing all of you and growing the active membership of the club. All are welcome to participate a little or a lot. We look forward to seeing you all soon ---Dave Siegel

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**Going Events:**

Peace & Pizza----2nd Friday of each Month, 7pm. 1533 B street, Hayward. Meet at Dave's and watch timely progressive movies, or speakers. Potluck !! Always thought provoking and educational. Good Food and Great People! Call 510-581-6118 for info.

Coffee & Consciousness--- 1st Saturday of the Month, 1:30 pm, Don Jose's Mexican Restaurant in Castro Village. Informal meeting with Dems Club and MoveOn members. Talk Politics and have fun!

## Report from our friend Lawrence Abbott on 99Rise and the Occupation at the State Capital

It is said that just showing up is 90% of winning. I believe this to be true. For those of us peacefully fighting to win the good fight for love and justice the stakes could not be higher. Corporate/oligarchic controls of our government, policies, and our politics, and with mainstream media growing in power, we have a very narrow window of opportunity to save our democracy. We also have a very narrow window of opportunity to save our dying planet. By uniting environmental and social justice movements we have the best chance to save our planet by returning power to the people.

This is why I jumped at the chance to represent MoveOn.org on the 99Rise California March for Democracy, and Occupation/Capitol Sit-in. I did not march many of the 500 miles from L.A. to Sacramento, but I was helping the effort as part of the Northern California Support Team. MoveOn recruitment tools helped get the word out to members along the March route and helped to make the community forums a big success. I also did my best to inform everyone in our area involved with labor, environment, and peace and justice. As Harvard professor Lawrence Lessig says, "Your issue is most important, but getting the money out of politics is the first one we must tackle together." This was the mission of the March and Occupation.

The March left L.A. on May 17th and arrived at the Capitol on June 22nd. That was when everything changed for me. I physically joined this group of super dedicated citizens for the 12 days of the occupation and began living the change by their side. By day we organized, trained, and set up delegations to meet with our representatives inside the Capitol. We entered every office of every Assembly person, Senator, and the Governor, telling our story and seeking support for reform legislation. We sought the leaders that would publically acknowledge the crisis of corruption of money in politics. Every day we stayed in the rotunda under the dome to rally, sit-in, sing, and demand needed change. We stayed until the last moment when they kicked us out at closing time. Those unwilling to leave were arrested. Much of this was live-streamed onto the internet for viewing and a documentary movie. At night we rotated shifts on the sidewalk at our information table. We occupied 24 hours a day! We caught the eye of the homeless people who tend to be nocturnal, and some of these great folks joined our effort. Outreach was 24 hours a day!

Outreach was the key to our successes. The March and Occupation created the space for people to really listen. Everyone that heard our stories became supporters and had their own stories to share. (Except for a few conservative reps, and some highly paid lobbyists that were honest enough to say that money in politics was their very good income!) Every one of our supported bills passed or moved forward! Many leaders stepped forward and spoke on the record about the need to end money in politics. Our movement has grown and become more organized and connected. Every politician in the Capitol has been put on notice. We know our Champions and we also know those that need more outreach, or to find a new job! We showed up and we won. As our fellow marcher Dolores Huerta says, "Si se puede!" Yes we Can! Please join us and all of the groups that are making things better. See [99Rise.org](http://99Rise.org) and [marchfordemocracy.org](http://marchfordemocracy.org).