



# The Democratic Advocate

Newsletter of the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee

## Letter from the Editor

Welcome back! Remember that the Democratic Advocate was started with several objectives in mind:

- 1) to provide an avenue of communication for elected officials,
- 2) to help people become more aware of the Democratic Party,
- 3) to assist in distributing information on upcoming activities, and
- 4) to provide a venue for you to express your views through letters to the editor and other contributions to this newsletter.

With those objectives in mind, I hope that you find the information in this issue of interest to you. I especially hope that more of you take advantage of this newsletter for expressing your opinions and views. I encourage and welcome any and all suggestions.

Sincerely,

*Olivia Graeve*

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General Submission  
Guidelines:

This newsletter will be published quarterly on the first Thursday of February, May, August, and October.

Material to be submitted to the editor for publication is due on the 25th of the month, two months prior to the issue in which the item is to be printed. For example, a submission for the August issue should be submitted no later than June 25.

All material sent to this newsletter must conform to the goals and objectives of the SCCDCC, and portray the SCCDCC in a positive light.

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# Santa Clara Valley News

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The Hayes Mansion Conference Center, located in the southern portion of the City of San Jose, is at the center of a tense labor dispute. The confrontation between conference center management and employees is mounting with large, raucous demonstrations becoming a regular occurrence outside the center. At the heart of the dispute is the employees' ability to provide healthcare for their families, receipt of a living wage, pension plan, and respect on the job.

The Hayes Mansion Conference Center is located in a historic mansion owned by the City of San Jose. In fact, the conference center is a public-private partnership between the City and Hayes Renaissance, L.P. Since the project's inception in 1993, the City has financed approximately 85% of the Conference Center facility's renovation and expansion. As a result, the City's role as a landlord and lender in the Hayes Mansion Conference Center has been essential to the creation and success of the facility.

However, despite its outward beauty and awards garnered, the Hayes Mansion has recently been confronted with discontent from employees who feel that their essential role in the facility's success deserves more respect and attention.

In July of 2001 over a hundred employees of Hayes Mansion chose to be represented by the Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees Union, Local 19. Since then, employees have tried to negotiate a fair contract with management, but little progress has been made despite the passage of many months.

Among the concerns employees wish to address in a contract are: the provision of a healthcare plan that allows employees to afford healthcare benefits for their children; the creation of reasonable workload standards; a pension plan; a living wage; and the distribution of gratuities/service charges to employees, rather than managers. Perhaps most vital to the Hayes Mansion employees is a contract that requires management to have a justifiable cause for terminating an employee.

Despite the reasonable nature of the employees' requests, management at the Hayes Mansion has been unwilling to address their workers' needs for basic respect and stability in their lives. As an employer in San Jose, as well as a public-private partnership, it is imperative that the Hayes Mansion be a positive addition to the community and offer quality jobs that benefit the residents of San Jose.

Employees of the Hayes Mansion, as well as their Union, HERE Local 19, call upon the good people of Santa Clara County and beyond, to support them in their quest for a fair contract that will offer basic protections and provisions for themselves and their families as do other Union establishments in San Jose (Fairmont, Hilton, Hyatt, etc.). Currently, the employees are not requesting a boycott of the facility. If you would like more information or would like to find out how you can support the efforts of the Hayes Mansion workers, please contact Kirsten Isaacson at (408) 437 - 1061.

# The County Democratic Party Dinner

The annual County Democratic Party Dinner - a tradition for local Democrats, took place on Friday, May 3 amid much excitement and anticipation. This event is crucial to our role in regaining control of the US House of Representatives and solidifying our position in the US Senate.

Many hardworking volunteers organized the event which brought together candidates and activists in preparation for the general election in November. The proceeds from the dinner will supply the funds necessary to conduct local activities such as establishing our headquarters, registering new Democratic voters, and getting out the vote campaigns.



Rose Jacobs Gibson



Ron Gonzales

Steve Preminger, chairman of the Santa Clara County Central Committee, served as master of ceremonies by introducing the speakers and welcoming them to the podium. The surprise, featured speaker was the Honorable Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor for San Mateo County. She highlighted her struggles as an African-American woman and the contributions she and other African-Americans have made to the political process in the United States, and especially in California.



Manny Diaz and Mike Honda

Other speakers included Major Ron Gonzales; Steve Westly, candidate for State Controller; Terry Gregory, candidate for San Jose City Council District 7; and Tony Alexander, chair of the Silicon Valley African American Democratic Coalition.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Don Edwards Award by Anne Mack to one of our best, Lee Sturtevant. (continued on page 7)

Saluting the African-American Community

# 16th Congressional District

Zoe Lofgren



Representative Zoe Lofgren and her fellow California Democrats in Washington have been working hard on an agenda that is broadly popular with Californians of all ages, races, and religions: protecting Social Security, pension, and retirement savings; investing in education by reducing class size and hiring more teachers; enforcing clean air and water laws; improving access to quality health care for all Americans; and investing in this country to create good jobs.

During this session of Congress, Zoe has been able to win several key victories on health, education, and environmental issues for the people of the 16th Congressional District (San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and San Martin).

On health care, Zoe worked with Governor Davis and Santa Clara County grassroots organizations to get President Bush to sign a waiver to use federal funds to expand California's Health Families coverage to an estimated 300,000 people.

On education, she is currently working with other California Democrats to get President Bush to fully fund the promises he made in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Specifically, she is seeking to restore and enhance federal funding to a key math and science partnership program designed to develop innovative new teaching techniques in high need school districts.

On the Science Committee, Zoe is an original cosponsor of H.R. 4646, a key bill that would double funding for the National Science Foundation. Funding the NSF is an important way to invest in our future: its research improves our health, our environment, and the type of high-tech economy that the 16th District is developing.

On the Judiciary Committee, she introduced an important amendment to the Committee's annual Views and Estimates to support Project ChildSafe, a Federal, State, and local partnership to ensure that child safety locks are made available for free for every handgun in America. Zoe worked to develop a strong and flexible Federal standard on child safety locks modeled on the one developed by the California Department of Justice.

Zoe will be continuing her work on health, education, the environment, as the 107th Congress winds down, and she is looking forward to still greater progress after the Democrats take back the House in 2002!

For more information on the activities of Representative Zoe Lofgren visit her web site at <http://www.house.gov/lofgren/>

# Notes from the Chairman

Steve Breminger

Even though it seems like a long time until November 5, the election season has begun. Governor Gray Davis is getting unfairly bashed in the press while his opponent, Bill Simon, a big defender of Enron and deregulated energy markets, continues to avoid media scrutiny. The Governor is in a tough position, dealing with a state budget deficit of many billions of dollars. He will be criticized for making no-win budget decisions and the Republicans in Sacramento will delay and drag out the budget process as long as possible, doing whatever they can to make Governor Davis twist in the wind. We cannot let that happen. Now more than ever California needs a Democratic Governor, needs Gray Davis to protect our state from unregulated market forces, from folks who have no regard for the poor, the infirm, the elderly and our youth; Californians who depend on state government to do the right thing and protect their interests.



Democrats will prevail, with your help and involvement. This summer Democratic volunteers will be staffing tables at festivals and malls across Santa Clara County to make sure the unregistered get registered to vote. We could use your help in this effort. Contact our Community Outreach Coordinator Liz McDavit (Cgactnet1@aol.com) and let her know of your availability. Interested in being part of a Democratic Club in your area, or your area of interest? We have plenty of them. Check our web site, [www.scc-democrats.org](http://www.scc-democrats.org) and you can learn more about these organizations, as well as about the Santa Clara County Democratic Party. We are good people, doing crucial work. We want to get to know you, and involve you. It is easy, It is free, and it is how our democracy will thrive. You will make a difference.

## Democratic Clubs

Silicon Valley African American Coalition, Tony Alexander, [tonco@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tonco@ix.netcom.com)  
Silicon Valley Clinton-Gore Democratic Action Network, Liz McDavit, [Cgactnet1@aol.com](mailto:Cgactnet1@aol.com)  
DAWN (Democratic Activists for Women Now), Carol Garvey, (408) 275-6981  
Peninsula Democratic Coalition, Fran Cochran, [franlcochr@aol.com](mailto:franlcochr@aol.com)  
Santa Clara County Democratic Club, Ann Shirkey, [Shioka1@attbi.com](mailto:Shioka1@attbi.com)  
West Valley Democratic Club, David Wilkes, [dwilkes@svpal.org](mailto:dwilkes@svpal.org)  
Evergreen Democratic Club at the Villages, Jim Gleeson, [JGlee75@aol.com](mailto:JGlee75@aol.com)  
Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club, Gap Kim, [batzmad@yahoo.com](mailto:batzmad@yahoo.com)  
South County Democratic Club, Alex Kennett, [gavilanf@garlic.com](mailto:gavilanf@garlic.com)  
Peninsula Young Democrats, Hope Allen, [info@peninsulayd.org](mailto:info@peninsulayd.org), [www.peninsulayd.org](http://www.peninsulayd.org)

## Assembly District Committees

21st AD, Ian Bain, [ibain@arpartners.com](mailto:ibain@arpartners.com)  
22nd AD, Chris Stampolis, [califdems@aol.com](mailto:califdems@aol.com)  
23rd AD, Ben Tripousis, [ben.tripousis@ci.sj.ca.us](mailto:ben.tripousis@ci.sj.ca.us)  
24th AD, Dolly Sandoval, [dolly@sandoval.com](mailto:dolly@sandoval.com)  
28th AD, Sal Alvarez, [aranch@infi.net](mailto:aranch@infi.net)

# Democratic Television

Steve Chessin



Are you tired of news coverage that reduces Democratic issues to eight-second sound bites, and television talk shows that degenerate quickly into shouting matches? Do candidate forums that limit answers to sixty seconds leave you hungry for more? Then you should be tuning in to Democratic Television, available on most cable systems from San Jose to Atherton.

Democratic Television (DTV) is a half-hour cable-access TV program produced by the Santa Clara County Democratic Party. Steve Preminger, County Chair, is the host of the show, and Steve Chessin, former County Secretary, is the producer. Many of the crew members are also members of the County Committee, including Chris Stampolis and Jim and Emily Thurber. Few of the crew members had any video experience prior to their involvement with DTV.

The purpose of DTV is to provide a method for the Santa Clara County Democratic Party to reach the general public with the ideas and goals of the Democratic Party, to discuss issues of concern to the Democratic Party and its constituencies, and to provide a platform for Democratic elected officials (both partisan and non-partisan) to reach the public in an effective manner, and in a relaxed interview setting. It is a refreshing alternative to campaign-driven sound bites and the adversarial atmosphere of candidate debates.

DTV has been in production since January 1995, and produces a new show every month. Guests have included elected officials (from local city councilmembers to U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer), candidates, club officials and club members, and political scientists. DTV can be seen regularly in most of San Jose and North County (see schedule on page 7). Notable exceptions are Santa Clara and Sunnyvale, which have no public access channel. If you live in one of those cities, you can help. Call your City Councilmember and tell them you want a public access channel; they negotiate it with the cable company. If your community is not listed: call your cable company, find out who operates the public access channel, including a contact name and phone number, and then contact the author.

DTV is produced at the facilities of KMVT in Mountain View. Productions are generally from 10 AM to noon the third Saturday of every month. Interested Democrats are invited to be part of our studio audience. If you'd like to be part of our studio audience, contact the author.

The taping schedule for the next four months is listed below:

DTV 89	May 25	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
DTV 90	Jun 15	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
DTV 91	Jul 20	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
DTV 92	Aug 31	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

DTV can be seen in the following communities:

- Cupertino Channel 15, 4:00 PM every Thursday;
- Los Altos Channel 26, 4:00 PM every Thursday;
- Los Gatos Channel 15, 7:00 PM every Thursday;
- Milpitas Channel 6, sometime between 5 PM and 7:30 PM every Thursday;
- Mountain View Channel 15, 6:30 PM every Tuesday;
- Palo Alto Channel 6 (serving Palo Alto, Stanford, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Atherton), 6:00 PM every Tuesday; and
- San Jose Channel 15A, 8:00 PM every other Thursday (Apr 11, Apr 25, May 9, May 23, etc.). (Serves part of Cupertino).

About the author:

Steve Chessin is the producer of Democratic Television. He had no video experience prior to his involvement with DTV. Steve is always looking for good Democrats who want to learn video production and become members of the crew. Contact him at (650) 786-6200 (Work) or (650) 962-8412 (Home) for more information.

(continued from page 3) The general sentiment of the attendees can be summed up very nicely by a comment made by Mr. Preminger: "Lee, we enjoyed giving it to you as much as you hated getting it." I think we would all agree that Lee is an unassuming and very committed Democrat and we are lucky to have her in Santa Clara County.



Anne Mack and Lee Sturtevant



Tony Alexander

The evening ended with all participants having a greater appreciation for the contributions of the African-American community to the political process in the United States and California and with many looking forward to next year's Banquet.

If you would like to receive a free subscription to this newsletter, please send your name, address, and phone number, indicating that you would like a subscription to The Democratic Advocate, to Olivia Graeve at oagraeve@lanset.com, or mail this form to 485 Northern Road, San Jose, CA 95125.

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