

T.O. Opening Remarks May 18, 2025

Welcome to the 79th meeting of Making Waves for Democracy....That is one helluva an accomplishment I think!

Anand Giridharadas – whose book The Persuaders I loved so much that I subscribed to his daily Substack INK – wrote a piece that resonated with me called “The Reckoning That Wasn’t”. We will link to it in our follow up email – Anand says that we are not doing our jobs -- whether the we is the Democratic Party or the Resistance of grassroots activists. He says that the “pandemic of incuriosity” has overtaken us, that we are becoming more like Trump!

WHAT???

He explains that we were promised there would be a reckoning about the election and there has NOT been one. He says: “The mirror neurons of our collective brain are firing on full blast right now. Introspection is of course, the central gaping absence in Trump himself. But now his deepest tendencies are becoming our tendencies standing

across from him. AN UNTHINKING MAN IS MAKING US UNTHINKING. He is causing those playing opposite him in this drama to remake themselves in his image...WHAT PROTECTS TRUMP'S POWER AND POSITION AS MUCH AS ANY FORMAL POWER IS HOW HE CHANGES THOSE OPPOSITE HIM....There is a small chance he will throw someone like me in jail one day. But he has already remade my heart, made me at times harsher, less prone to assume good faith, more dismissive, than I would have been.”

I realized he was talking about me. I was engaging in one of the things I hate: contempt prior to investigation. So I did what I had resisted and ordered a copy of the book Abundance by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson. (Those who know me know that a personal pet peeve is how men and in particular white men are writing the theory books we read....)

Anand goes on to say, in that article: “This is a way of defanging your opposition.....We are less and less prone to living lives of CURIOSITY...To the VISIONING AND REVISIONING, WONDERING...THAT IS SO VITAL TO

STRATEGY AND ACTION. HE DRAINS HIS FOILS OF THIS LIFEBLOOD.....TRUMP WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED ...BY PEOPLE AS UNTHINKING AND DEFENSIVE AND INCURIOUS AS HE IS..... The opposite of Trumpism is not just a different immigration or tax policy....it is fundamentally different habits of mind: curiosity, humility, openness to criticism....and the courage to change.”

There it is! That which we have been unwilling or unable to say. We need to build a new coalition, a new social movement that is populist AND progressive and of course anti-fascist but also curious, positive....and based on our values: Diversity, equality and JUSTICE FOR ALL!...

We can do it, folks. Yes, keep on Protesting and Disrupting (and Suing and Voting) -- And by the way let's protest like they do in Montclair, New Jersey, Sundays at 3 p.m.....Identify a well-traveled street corner and show up

weekly, same place, same time. It'll grow and you'll attract first-timers....The formula so far is:

handmade signs,

no speakers,

folks are all welcome and come for 20 mins or whatever they have....

the spirit is welcoming, joyful and FUN.....

and keep coming back to Making Waves...And SOON we'll take the power and defeat the chaos and cruelty of

Trumpism for good.... As Maurice Mitchell (he heads up the Working Families Party) says: The world we want is a lot closer than it looks.

We just have to get out of our own way!

But first Jackie Goldberg will explain to us why the Republican Party, taken over by the extreme Right wing, cares so much about destroying PUBLIC EDUCATION that is so fundamental for democracy....

30-30-30