

## Barrie Levy Welcoming Remarks

MWD Meeting July 27, 2025

Welcome to Making Waves for Democracy – I'm Barrie Levy – We've been working together and sustaining our connections since 2017 to restore sanity to Congress, keep one another informed about activism that matters, and keeping ourselves sane as well.

It's hard not to feel depressed – I think we're all feeling the effects of the cruelty and inhumanity that we're seeing all over the world. We struggle to find the good stuff, but we do.

Jessica Craven, of *Chop Wood, Carry Water*, said this (which you might have seen):

“Remember how we'll get through it:... one day, one action, one step at a time. Think of how you'd pedal a bike up a steep hill—not by staring up at the top of the incline and using the most difficult gear to try to get there quickly. No, you'd look down at your front tire, switch into the easiest gear, and take it one (grueling) turn of the pedals at a time.

When we do that long enough, we always reach the crest of the hill. And so will we...[as we go forward].

The journey is long but we're in excellent shape. We'll get there - And when we do, how good it will feel to know that we didn't give up, even when the going got tough. THAT is what courage looks like.”

Thank you for all that you do to make the good things happen!

And good things have happened this week!

A House subcommittee voted to subpoena the DOJ for files in the sex trafficking investigation into Jeffrey Epstein after Democrats successfully goaded GOP lawmakers to defy Trump and Republican leadership to support the action.

Trump's approval rating dropped to its lowest level of his second term—37%!

Other news:

Education:

After Democratic AGs and other groups sued, the Trump administration is releasing 6 billion in grants for education it had previously blocked.

Climate:

The United Nations reported a global shift toward renewable energy, passing a “positive tipping point” where solar and wind power will become even cheaper and more widespread.

Renewables like solar and wind are now crushing fossil fuels on price. More than 90% of renewable sources are now cheaper than their available carbon-emitting alternatives.

Immigration:

National Guard troops in L.A. are growing demoralized. It’s a small but meaningful indication that Trump might not be able to get all the armed forces on board in future authoritarian power grabs.

L.A. grand juries are refusing to indict ICE protestors.

A diverse group of faith leaders, college students, grandmothers, retired lawyers and professors has been showing up at immigration courts across the nation to escort immigrants at risk of being detained for deportation by ICE agents.

A third federal court blocked Trump’s restrictions on birthright citizenship.

Today we will hear from Jon Davidson from the ACLU to hear what’s at stake in the courts right now in the wake of recent Supreme Court decisions, ACLU strategies and lawsuits in challenging the Trump regime’s attacks, and how grassroots communities like ours can push back.

We will also hear from Jeanne Miranda about successful coalition building to advocate for Democratic policies about inequality and climate change.