

Welcome remarks

June 28, 2026 Meeting

Barrie Levy

Hi everyone, it's so good to see you all, and to be here with you, and for us to be all together in the same room. Good for my weary soul. Refreshing. Re-energizing. Cuz I am tired. Are you? What an intense month! Canvassing for the primaries and ballot measures, devastating news from the Supreme Court this week... Trying NOT to feel the pain of so many people who are suffering all over the world.

I've seen some of you canvassing for Derek Tran in Orange County – we've been speaking with middle class people about issues that concern them, and hearing their stories – the impact of the current regime on their own lives – health care and insurance costs no longer affordable and harder to get the care they need; job insecurity and rising prices. They have appreciated that their Representative cares about them and wants to hear from them.

Right now everything seems to matter so much, here in the Westside, in California and in the US.

We got through the CA primaries and did well – today you will hear from our 3 experts – Brandon Zavala, Jane Wishon and Amy Capelle - about what the CA primary results mean for November, and the future of the House.

Appreciating our victories. What about NY?! **Mayor Zohran Mamdani's progressive coalition had a big night on Tuesday. Brad Lander, Darializa Avila Chevalier and Claire Valdez won their Democratic House primaries. Very exciting!**

We must remember – we continue to have many victories, and we – the resistance – are a major force for change in the US!

Thanks, Torie, for sending this article, “The State of American Resistance is Stronger Than You May think” (quote from [Julia Angwin](#) and Ami Fields-Meyer)

“There is a range of proven ways to defeat a leader who has little regard for the rule of law, and people across the United States are taking part in many of them, forming a wellspring of defiance that is vivid, dynamic and growing every day.

What is needed now isn't just an action checklist but a new orientation — a posture for daily life. The people who survive political repression, and the movements that protect democratic institutions, are those able to redefine who they mean by “we.”

“Authoritarianism is about how we can do less for each other and still feel OK about it,” said Remelya Jackalope, the founder of the Transcendence Care Network, which helps trans people relocate in the United States. “A key piece of fighting against authoritarianism is asking the question, ‘What more can we do for each other?’”

We are all part of the resistance, and your commitment to do everything you can for positive change is what makes the difference! You will have the opportunity today to talk with one another about what you're doing, and to sign up for actions so you can refresh your soul and be energized for the months ahead.