

T.O. Opening Remarks Sept 29th Making Waves for Democracy

Welcome to the 74th meeting of Making Waves for Democracy!

I have 3 things today:

1) Ted Lieu

2) My obsession with the steady 45% polling support for Trump.

3) More on the Kamala-nomenon

FIRST, he's MY congressman, and Rep. Ted Lieu is pretty perfect EXCEPT when it comes to raising money for himself! He has said YES every single time we've asked him to show up -- that's 9 times! -- so the least we can do is support his BLUE MOMENTUM PAC – tickets start at \$100 for the fundraising BRUNCH on Oct 19 at Dayna Bochco's Brentwood home. PLEASE SUPPORT TED LIEU! For info, email Genelle.buchert@gmail.com or call 562.981.2111.

Second, I've been obsessed with WHY THAT FRIGGIN' FASCIST CULT leader has been steadily getting 45% in the polls. All my life, I've assumed that this country's racist Right-wing has about 33% support, and with ALL the negatives attached to the Orange Fascist -- that incompetent, OLD, lying grifter and

convicted FELON -- I just don't get it. Why does he still get a solid 45% in the polls???

Well, I recently read a long piece written by my friend Deepak Bhargava and two others (Deepak was our speaker last month) that helped me understand better. Published by the longtime progressive thinktank, the Roosevelt Institute, I admit its title put me off a bit *“The Cultural Contradictions of Neoliberalism: The Longing for an Alternative Order and the Future of Multiracial Democracy in an Age of Authoritarianism”* – **NOTE: it was written BEFORE the world changed on July 21:** I admit I've never exactly understood what “neoliberalism” is, but if my shero Heather Cox Richardson can use the term these days, I can too!

The bottom line is that we are floating in an in-between time; the old world is collapsing but the new one is not yet born.

The article talks about progressives' overemphasis on POLICY and **lack of embrace of culture and spirituality**, as well as the universal *“tide of longing”* for COMMUNITY and BELONGING, for SAFETY, and more. Right now, in this floating time, the hunger for CONNECTION is overwhelming, and the Right is much better at organizing in response to the epidemics we're seeing today of **despair, of addiction, of anxiety and other mental health issues, of loneliness and more.**

I think this explains why the JOY and HOPE of the Harris/Walz campaign have taken the country by storm! The key to progressive success is collective cultural experience.

I have a sign in my office that has a quote from artist/activist Cleo Wade: WE ARE THE BUILDERS WHO ARE BUILDING A WORLD THAT HAS NEVER BEEN BUILT BEFORE.

I'm proud that Making Waves for Democracy does our small part in building community, embracing culture, and fighting that fascist cult of personality.

FINALLY, a bit more on the Harris/Walz campaign. Aside from the fact that JOY and HOPE are much needed these days, importantly, VP Harris is uniquely able to be BOTH A CHANGE candidate AND an incumbent! That's a winning combo right there.

As for the CHANGE part, as pundit Steve Phillips says in his newsletter, *Democracy in Color*:

QUOTE: "...we are witnessing a clash between two constellations of the population: one that would rather this country be a white Christian nation and another that believes in a multiracial democracy.VP Harris ... is essentially the embodiment of a 400-plus-year movement that believes in the

**possibility of an equitable, multiracial, multicultural country.”
(UNQUOTE).**

I think that about says it all!

OKAY -- Back to the business at hand: Another world IS possible, but that other world will NEVER be born without a victory at the ballot box this November – In 5 weeks we MUST flip the House, hold the Senate and the White House.... Next you’ll hear from our TWO House candidates.

First up is George Whitesides. We’ve been doorknocking for him for months up in the Antelope Valley.....

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