

T.O. Opening remarks – Making Waves for Democracy March 29, 2026
(1060)

Welcome to the 86th monthly meeting of *Making Waves for Democracy!*

I think it's astonishing that we've lasted for over 9 years as an all-volunteer group. This November, it'll be 10 years since 162 of us travelled to Vegas for Hillary. Oh how the world would be different if she had been elected!

And speaking of powerful women, happy last few days of Women's History Month -- and how about that Dolores Huerta, huh??? I hope everyone read her statement.... She was already my shero, but what courage to keep that secret for so many decades (although too many women got sexually abused or harassed back in the 60s and early 70s...It's one of the reasons for Women's Liberation...) ...

Happy Farmworkers Day Tuesday March 31st...Here's my thought about that: When do we go after -- as Barrie put it -- the Rapist-in-Chief?? And when will the survivors -- those not redacted in the Epstein Files -- get restitution???

OKAY -- on a lighter note, today is Palm Sunday for those who celebrate....it's Springtime, a time of renewal. The Jacarandas -- at least their tops -- are blooming in my town....I love them and their best purple glow is yet to come....

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There's too much coming at me daily....BUT I know it's by design. They want to Flood the Zone, in order to exhaust all of us....Then Saturdays roll around and I go to a protest (11-12:30 in Culver City, EVERY Saturday) and find community again!

And as you've heard from Barrie, yesterday was the big, national No Kings Three PROTEST! I absolutely LOVED it! There were LOTS of folks (I'm terrible at estimating crowds but at least 1500 demonstrators were in Culver City and when we left, about an hour in, there were people still walking there, with their homemade signs!). The TV showed an aerial view of it and the one in Santa Monica BUT it was early so there were not a lot of folks out....Media aside, yesterday was the largest-EVER single day of protest in the country's history! 8 + million! It was a joyous and raucous – and racier than usual (I've never seen as many F-words written down!)...There were 41 No Kings protests just in LA County (vs. 30 last time)...I was so moved that I was on the verge of tears...I saw lots of Making Waves regulars (20+!), plus our new banner (Thank you Linda Garnets!)It was altogether a wonderful day....

But I sure hope the orange fascist falls soon....And ICE goes away. And the wars on Iran and Gaza end.....

***** THIS IS NEW THOUGHT....

Bless the TSA agents working without pay at airports around the county. I know the ICE agents are there as a trial run for the midterms. Yes, I know the orange fascist and his clowns will do whatever to stop the elections from happening. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOT think about that now....Better to fight against the dirty work of ICE that continues, in LA and elsewhere.

Rebecca Solnit, author of Hope in the Dark, had this quote in her *NYTimes* interview: QUOTE “One of the great weaknesses of our era is that we get lone superhero movies that suggest that our big problems are solved by muscly guys in spandex, when actually the world mostly gets changed through

collective effort. TIK N-YAT HAHN said before he died a few years ago that the next Buddha will be the Sangha. The Sangha, in Buddhist terminology, is the community of practitioners. It's this idea that we don't have to look for an individual, for a savior....The counter to Trump always has been and always will be civil society. The Right wants a dictator, and a lot of the left wants social change to look like ... Che Guevara. Maybe changing the world is more like caregiving than it is like war." UNQUOTE....Like the Twin Cities and the (QUOTE) "neighboring" (UNQUOTE) that defeated ICE there, as *NYTimes* Thomas Friedman said in his article "How Minnesota Beat Trump", otherwise titled "Why Minnesota Matters More Than Iran for America's Future". Look it up and read it – and if you've already read it, read it again!

WE ARE THE MAJORITY -- and everybody knows that "the majority rules." Speaking of majorities, I read somewhere that **51% of the voters consider themselves independent of the two political parties.** Now, I'm a Democrat, the daughter of two Democrats – my whole family are Democrats – we're Blue through and through. And Democrats are on an electoral roll -- winning 90% of elections since 2024... mostly to all-important statehouses. And we'll ride the anti-MAGA bandwagon to victory in both the House and the Senate in November....! (The midterms are only 7 months away!)

It's important to note that Republicans and the Right-wing have worked for 50 years to sow dissent and doubt about electoral politics. I understand the alienation in this country from the political system, particularly among low-information voters.

And that 51% is one reason why I hope that Making Waves will join with others to target independents – in California, we call them Decline to States -- voters in CA 48 (the old Issa district) and work to tell the truth about

the Republican candidate there before the June primary. That candidate is more moderate than Daryl Issa is and much more dangerous – but he still supported the Big Ugly Bill.... As my favorite political consultant, Parke Skelton, wrote – this is all post-Prop 50: QUOTE “When Darrell Issa dropped out of the race on the last day of filing and threw his endorsement to Republican San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond, the Cook Political Report moved the 48th from a ‘Toss Up’ to ‘Lean Democrat.’ That was a mistake.” UNQUOTE. Once Prop 50 passed, the district was assumed to be in the D column. But it’s still a purple district, with from 5 to 9 candidates on the Dem side vying for a spot in the Top Two in the primary.... (By the way, the Jungle Primary, or Top Two is a Republican idea only for Blue states...and California voters got fooled in June 2010 when they passed it....But I digress....).

FORWARD! Now, to hear about phase 2, phase 1 being yesterday’s No Kings rallies, **BACK TO OUR MEETING** to hear from Jeannie Miranda and Tracy Zeluff as we move into **ACTION ...** **Barrie.....?**