

Welcome to the 71st monthly meeting of Making Waves for Democracy since January 2017!

I want to start by crowing a bit about our September 15 Zoom fundraiser for our two candidates, Senator Dave Min and George Whitesides - you will all get invitations soon!!.... For the first time ever, everyone we asked to speak has said YES, so we have one hell of a lineup: Sheila Kuehl, Ted Lieu, Katie Porter, Jamie Raskin and Adam Schiff will all be there, along with our two candidates!....Tickets start at \$50, the link is live, and I'll put it in the Chat..... (It's <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mwd>)

1. Okay so I'm fighting TRUMP OUTRAGE FATIGUE, and I bet some of you are too....The last straw was that craven lineup of MAGA Republicans outside the New York City Courtroom where the Orange Fascist is on trial. Or maybe what put me over the edge was the endless, obsessive coverage of that trial on my beloved MSNBCOr maybe it was the Mar a Lago fundraiser where that same Orange Fascist offered to sell off our planet to the frigging OIL companies for a billion dollars to his campaign....

Sometimes, I just cannot stand to watch the news anymore!

2. Secondly, I want take a moment of personal privilege.

On May 10, I lost two friends in a head-on car crash, Peggy Moore and Hope Wood. They were way too young, at 60 and 48. They were in a jeep driven by Hope's uncle -- he also died but her aunt survived, thank gods, and is recuperating in the hospital.... They were returning from an Eisley Brothers concert in San Diego. I picture Peggy and Hope sitting in the back

seat of that white Jeep, holding hands and bopping, singing loudly when the lights went out forever.

I worked with both of them over the years. Hope was my QUOTE “boss” in 2008 on the Obama campaign, and we shared an office daily for several months. I always use quotes because (a) I was a volunteer and she was paid staff, and b) she was 32 and I was 58 -- on leave from LA City Hall as a Villaraigosa Deputy Mayor. Hope ran the battleground states program to Nevada that I and a circle of other super-volunteers worked on—by the way we organized 18,000 folks to Nevada! Hope was a former elementary school teacher, always energetic and loud – but she was also, as we say in recovery, “restless, irritable, and discontent” -- she always seemed to me to be searching for something – until she met Peggy! Peggy and Hope’s relationship was one for the ages; they never stopped being deeply in love.

I stayed in touch with Hope, and I was lucky to work off and on with Peggy over the years, in her roles as Political Director for OFA after President Obama won in ‘08 and then as Trainer for the CA Dem Party. Peggy, ever wise and calm – and one hell of an orator! -- was a fixture in Oakland electoral politics. Hope’s always-intense energy was focused on their joint consulting firm, *Hope Action Change*, and they had recently moved to Corona Del Mar in the OC to be closer to Hope’s family, but kept their apartment in Oakland. Their business was going gangbusters.....

At my age, death is a constant, but this time I was reminded why it’s called the “tunnel of grief.” It’s all consuming. I’m emerging from that tunnel now -- but in their memory, I vow to slow down and get more grateful for the little things in life, as Peggy taught us in her “Thanksgiving Thursdays” videos on her Facebook page. If you’re on FaceBook, check ‘em out! REST IN POWER AND PEACE, Peggy and Hope!

3. As I've mentioned here before, I'm working on my memoir – or, really, at this stage, it's an autobiography – I believe I have a responsibility, as does every activist who has a story to tell, to write it all down for the following generations of activists.....

After 1 ½ years – of writing 15 minutes a day -- the first draft is almost done! And I want to share one big thing I've realized: that the leftward turn of the 1960s and 1970s – MY ERA! -- was an ANOMALY in US history. The US is really quite conservative and slow to change.....

I have come to realize that the three social movements that spawned rapid leftward progress in 15 years, from 1960 to 1975 – *and 15 years is the blink of an eye in history, really!* – and formed the backbone of the 1960s and 1970s: Civil Rights, Feminism and Environmentalism – and all the progressive social movements that flowed from them – lesbian-feminism and LGBTQ rights; AAPI and Chicano power; Disability rights; environmental and climate justice; racial, criminal, economic and gender justice -- ALL the justice movements, really.....are the anomaly in history. We are still fighting the Civil War!

Although progressives have won over the majority, we do not yet have political power. That's why our electoral work is so important: We MUST flip the House, and HOLD the White House and the Senate. A BLUE trifecta in DC is the precondition to real change.

This current right-wing era is a backlash to the '60s and '70s. BUT, the framing of the Democracy vs Fascism fight is missing one key thing that undergirds EVERYTHING, and has gotten so much worse since the New Right of the 1980s came to power: ECONOMICS.

The current ECONOMIC DISPARITY is the worst it's ever been in the US -- worse than the era of the 1920s! During the two years of the pandemic, US billionaires – under 1000 people -- increased their wealth by nearly \$2 TRILLION, or 40%. And let me remind you that one trillion is one million million. That number boggles the mind.

When will we reframe the discussion as The Billionaires vs. the Rest of us? WE are the 99%!

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To end today, I attended a really cool online convening last month put on by the California Grassroots Alliance – get on their mailing list if you aren't already.... – and there I heard the following analogy, and loved it:

“Democracy is like pickleball: there's JOY in it!”

OK....now to introduce our first topic: ABORTION....