

OPENING REMARKS by Torie Osborn October 4, 2026 –MWD

Welcome to the 91st monthly meeting of Making Waves for Democracy! I'm proud of nearly 10 years of this volunteer-driven political community. We do two things: Get-Out-the-Vote work, and grassroots fundraising....Last month was our latest fundraiser and we raised over \$125,000 split evenly between candidates Adam Gray, Derek Tran, Randy Villegas, Marni Von Wilpert in order to Hold 2 and Flip 2 seats in the House....I got a nice note from Derek Tran with a bouquet of flowers that said it was the largest sum he'd gotten from any online fundraiser!

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I want to acknowledge the death of Dolly Parton -- my favorite meme on FaceBook was: WE SAID: DONALD, NOT DOLLY... We also lost two giants of second-wave feminism: Gloria Steinem and Robin Morgan. Robin was less well known; she authored Sisterhood is Powerful which everyone in my circles read in the early 1970s...

Gloria Steinem said many times that EMPATHY IS A REVOLUTIONARY EMOTION....Empathy is the most revolutionary emotion. Empathy is the basis of a national politics that is now emerging, post-

Minneapolis -- which I believe was THE turning point. (“Neighboring” IS empathy in action.)

In the last election, in 2024, I got caught up in Kamala’s JOY BUBBLE. In 2016, I had first-hand data, canvassing in Las Vegas in 2016 for Hillary and the contrast with Obama in 2008 and 2012 was stark, and so I wasn’t surprised by Hillary’s loss.....But I was here in LA for the 2024 elections, and afterwards there was a period where I was lost and wondered WHY? WHY TRUMP AGAIN? So, I asked my God in a letter and She said back to me clearly that “America needs to learn about fascism”....

Now, I’ve come to believe that everything is meant to be...And that the world we all want is closer than we think, as our car’s rearview mirror says....BUT fascism is here indeed.

I recently read a brilliant new book, END TIMES FASCISM AND THE FIGHT FOR THE LIVING WORLD by Naomi Klein and Astra Taylor And as they say, The logical conclusion of fascism is: Trillionaire men on Mars with their Robots...

(.....I used to think Naomi Klein was too left for me, but this book is spot on!)

Certain things are incompatible with Life. Fascism is one: The Oligarchs (with their WEALTH that accumulates up to \$100 million PER

DAY....think about that for a sec!) and AI and Christian Nationalism and Racism and Militarism... And Corruption run amok and the cutbacks in government.....we could go on....

I believe WE are the real PRO-LIFE movement and I'm resentful (as are Naomi and Astra) that the Right claimed the pro-life meme. It describes US, not them. We EMBRACE LIFE in all its diversity!

Multiracial democracy WILL WIN -- and sooner than we think – Multiracial Democracy is a combination of social justice, diversity, love, connection to each other and to nature (.....Flamingo power! God bless the Albanians!), and relative economic equality.

This book has lots of goodies: “Fascism is capitalism with bared teeth...AND....Fascism is a Counterrevolution of a revolution that has not yet occurred....AND... The Right's religion is more than Opium – it's an Amphetamine...” And the book has a solution: build out of the anti-MAGA coalition a real MOVEMENT that fights fascism. Keep organizing!

As Robert Reich says, We are on the verge of a major political realignment! There are more Republicans than Democrats against the DATA CENTERS (that use up lots of water and electricity) that the Oligarchs want to build everywhere...

We are there. We get to choose the future. Buy the book or at least watch the interview with Naomi Klein and Astra Taylor, with Robert Reich..... LINK HERE).

The global crises of climate change, immigration, concentrations of wealth and power in the hands of a few MEN have reached a tipping point. *The first step in winning is this Election: take Congress, then keep organizing -- against ICE, or whatever you do! No deed is too small; there's room for ALL OF US!!!*

And a word of advice from me to save energy and time: DO NOT bash the Democratic Party because it is changing for the better. The Republicans are un-American; they line up and follow the leader – authoritarian to the max..... I embrace the Democrats' “raucous pluralism”, as Simon Rosenberg of Hopium Chronicles calls it. The country is wide-ranging and diverse; there are candidates that match their districts: progressives, even socialists, and centrists. Let the voters decide who they want to represent.....

And do NOT forget: Women will NOT go back. AND People of Color are the majority in California and they are set to be in the USA in a few years. And they are not going back! We will win!

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So this meeting features the upcoming election: my words of wisdom are:

- 1. Stop “Trumpian fuckery” (as Simon Rosenberg says) by overwhelming them. There are many more of us than of them! So sign up to volunteer at a polling place in your neighborhood or go out of state to a battleground state.**
- 2. We model the best for everyone when we are CALM in the face of the Orange Fascist’s desperation....**
- 3. Vote EARLY and tell everyone you know to too...**
- 4. And in CA use Drop Boxes and Vote Centers**
- 5. If you must use USPS, vote by Oct 18.**

Or, put a stamp on your ballot. It gets treated like first class mail.

That’s it from me!

Back to you Barrie.....

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