

T.O. OPENING REMARKS MWD 2/1/26.

(1197 words)

Welcome to the 85th monthly meeting of Making Waves for Democracy....we've been around over 9 years, since Jan 2017— We are the ONLY ALL-VOLUNTEER group in the Resistance since Trump I that's survived -- and we're still strong! TOGETHER we have knocked on 150,000 doors and raised over \$2 million at lots of \$50 events.....

Later you'll have a chance to participate in a canvass for Derek Tran in Norwalk. Please do!

Okay – this is a bit scattered today....I have many diverse thoughts.

ONE

Well, it took a while but Minnesota happened -- and Americans are finally awake, aroused out of their stupor. Yesterday, even the KIDS ARE WALKING OUT OF SCHOOLS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY!! It's so reminiscent of the Civil Rights movement....It's unfortunate it took the murder of two white folks by our very own KKK....but FINALLY the awakening of America has occurred!.... (I still don't know when the orange fascist will fall or die but it will be within a couple years -- and we move forward anyway....)

2026 is here and it couldn't be more important....This is the year we will defeat MAGA electorally and take power....(And Democracy IS voting, I've learned that...)

So, the House of Representatives is our firewall -- we'll hear from Rep. Derek Tran shortly, introduced by Rep. George Whitesides.

But the Senate is in play too. Brian Colker says the best bets are ME, NC and OH. We have Roy Cooper in NC and Sherrod Brown in OH, but we'll see after the Democratic primary who goes up against Republican Senator Susan Collins in ME – Maybe Gov. Janet Mills? Regardless, it's very possible Dems take BOTH Houses of Congress....Let's work toward it!

The second thing that's on my mind is:

Folks have asked me: WHY MINNEAPOLIS?? Here are 4 reasons:

- 1. According to my data friend at USC, ICE is targeting states that have the largest Black immigrant population....that's why the white-majority states of Minnesota and Maine are on the MAGA agenda.**
- 2. Minnesota is a successful welfare state. Neighborliness is the culture; caring is in the air. *The Atlantic* calls the culture there “neighborism”. It's beyond ideology. And EVERYONE is involved.**
- 3. This is important: The protests have been nonviolent – Remember, this is the city where George Floyd was murdered and Black Lives Matter began to hit the streets in 1990. So the Twin Cities got organized, BUT they lost the narrative back**

then because the protests got angry and turned violent....This time, not so. Nonviolent Civil Disobedience has been the response since then. And it's spreading all over the country....There are trainings on Nonviolence everywhere.

4. Finally, let's not forget that it's winter. ICE just wasn't prepared for the weather. Remember the Battle of Moscow in World War 2 when the Allies (the Russians/Soviets) beat the Nazis....well, these ICE thugs didn't expect MINUS 30 degrees....

THREE

Here are 3 interesting factoids I've learned since last time we met...

1. The Map we all tend to see has Greenland too big and closer to Canada and the US than they really are.....

2. 51% of the registered voters nationally are independent of the Republicans and the Democrats. They don't like either party.

(NOTE: This is NOT true in the OC....) There are only a few (5-7%) REAL independents...

3. What is the winning message? Affordability/the economy? Or democracy? The answer is: BOTH. We can do two things at once.

FINALLY, Fourth on my mind is this:

Even as we see “green shoots” – as Robert Reich calls them – spring up everywhere, it’s urgent that we Say what we are for, according to messaging guru Anat Shenker-Osorio of ASO Communications.

Well, I don’t know how many of you have read THE 3 EARTHS by Ai-Jen Poo – ED of the National Domestic Worker Alliance and Lorella Praeli, co-ED of Community Change (the national organization our friend Deepak Bhargava ran for many years).... (NOTE: IF YOU HAVEN’T SEEN the 3 Earths paper YET, WE’LL LINK IT IN THE AFTER EMAIL THIS WEEK...) Ai-Jen’s work is the lifting up of care work...and Lorella is one of the amazing young, upcoming EDs of color running progressive movement nonprofits these days.....

The 3 Earths paper was published last May but the paradigm is still relevant and important. It’s the most useful construct I’ve yet heard to understand the times, to meet the moment....Here’s a summary:

****Earth 1 is the “Fading World of Liberal Democracy”. This is the world we grew up with that is unraveling very rapidly, QUOTE “the world of liberal representative democracy where institutions, however imperfect, function and serve the public.... This was the world where through organizing, voting, protesting, lobbying and pushing for reform, we could move the arc of history toward**

justice.” UNQUOTE...There are many things we want to keep in Earth 1 such as the US Constitution, Due Process and Civil Society!

****Earth 2 is where we are now – authoritarianism... creeping, or galloping, fascism – QUOTE “where those very institutions” that have been built, from DEI, and “the courts to government agencies, are being dismantled and defunded, the information landscape is fractured, due process is disappearing, and, importantly, our work of making progress is called ‘un-American’ and civil society is collapsing.” UNQUOTE. This is the world of Trump and the MAGA regime, of the “bullies for the billionaires” as Shenker-Osorio puts it.**

Some of us call this “the patriarchal confederacy” or the “confederate patriarchy” – At the same time as we celebrate 250 years of NO KINGS, it’s the Civil War continued -- racism, sexism, genocide, and imperialism never stopped and a white male minority is asserting itself. That’s Earth 2 and it’s time to stop them for good.

**** AND Earth 3 is the world we want. Some of us have been fighting for it our whole lives. Earth 3 is a place we must envision even while we live under growing fascism... Rather than obsess about Trump, we MUST envision the future: QUOTE: “... a future that serves the needs and aspirations for opportunity, prosperity, and belonging for all of us...” UNQUOTE**

As the paper says, QUOTE “These 3 Earths coexist; they are not separate realms. Navigating them is not just a matter of adapting to the moment – it will shape the course of history....” UNQUOTE

Earth 3 is vague, and utopian. BUT it excites me! We’re gonna BUILD BACK BETTER (to coin a phrase!) It’s up to us, the grassroots, TOGETHER to create the new world we want. The last time I envisioned the world I want was in 1971. And that was small potatoes compared to this! Then, as part of the new left, we THOUGHT fascism was around the corner; now, it’s really here!

I may not be around to see Earth 3 but the thought of it is wonderful to me, so exciting... we will make the multiracial, multigenerational, egalitarian, participatory REAL democracy together!

WE ALL NEED TO BE INVOLVED!! And it all starts this year with changing the majority in Congress –with re-electing Representative George Whitesides in CA 27 and Representative Derek Tran in CA 45.... So, since I believe introductions are important, let me do a proper intro of George.....

30-30-30