

T.O. Opening Remarks to Making Waves, April 19, 2026

Welcome to the 87th monthly meeting of *Making Waves for Democracy!* Ballots drop in 3 weeks for the primary, which is June 2.... So we have a lot to get to today....We want to FLIP two House seats post-Prop 50: MAGA Valadeo's CA 22 and CA 48, the former Darryl Issa seat. AND we'll hear soon about Democratic voter registration from Jason Berlin -- and then from Parke Skelton and Nelson Goins about a project in CD 48 BEFORE THE PRIMARY that targets independent voters -- called Decline to State or DTS voters in California....

I totally believe we will WIN the midterms in November -- and that we will match 2018's BLUE TSUNAMI. Democrats have over-performed in every election since the orange fascist won this time around. And in less than 7 months, we will kick his ass by taking power in BOTH the House and the Senate. Congress will be ours and we'll get rid of ICE on our streets, and more!

What I'm thinking about these days is not the war in Iran or the orange fascist himself or the Right wing and MAGA or even the destruction of democracy but of the World that we will usher in when he's gone.....

And NO, I don't know how or when he will fall BUT I have faith that he will. ALL TYRANTS FALL -- like Orban, last week! AND It's looking like MAGA's on its last legs and that we good guys have turned a corner. Which makes winning the midterms all the more important....!

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Rebecca Solnit, the Bay Area feminist writer, author of my favorite-ever book, Hope In The Dark as well as several more, has a daily column called *Meditations in an Emergency*. Today's column, called

“Everything is Changing Fast: A Brisk Tour through Shifting Views”
discusses the fast-changing realities in this transformative world – one
example: progressives have redeemed FROG symbolism from the Right with
its Pedro the frog....Think those inflatable frogs at every protest....

But she had a column last week that was truly astonishing: It’s
called *“Flowers Bloom on Soldiers Graves: Lessons in Power and
Consequence”*. I had never thought about *flowers as feminist revolutionaries*
before, but Solnit quotes botanist David George Haskell’s new book How
Flowers Made Our World: The Story of Nature’s Revolutionaries. QUOTE
“When flowers arrived, they upended and transformed the planet....We
often think of power and revolution as about control, authoritarianism and
violence. Might makes right. BUT that’s not the only way....Flowers offer a
different narrative. They changed the world ...through cooperation, through
collaboration, often mediated by beauty....So a flower is quite literally
(connecting with the) sensory system of a bee or...of a bird to draw that
animal into establishing a cooperative relationship, a reciprocal
relationship....” UNQUOTE

Solnit goes on to say: QUOTE “Flowers develop....the power to
influence others’ behavior by building symbiotic relationships: ‘I’ll feed you
fruit if you scatter my seeds; I’ll give you nectarin return for pollination;
I’ll let you domesticate me and I’ll provide you with your daily bread and
you’ll plant and tend me across countless fields for countless generations....

“...People who have violence at their disposal often confuse it
with power...I think of the abusive spouses who think they can coerce love but
often can only extort a reluctant simulation of it by someone whose motivating
feeling is fear rather than love and whose desire is often to escape.” END

QUOTE....Those of us who understand power dynamics know what we must do: ELECT Democrats!

And, it turns out that FLOWER POWER is real!

Now on to our meeting...We urge each of you to sign up to do something later in the agenda when the poll happens... To tell us what to do, **FIRST UP is Jason....**

Jason Berlin invented “Partisan Voter Registration.” (And he loves Drag Queens which is definitely a sign of greatness!)

He invented Partisan Voter Reg by going up to folks in purple districts back in 2017 and asking “How do you feel about Donald Trump? Wanna get rid of him?”

Field Team 6 ONLY registers Democrats....

He named his group Field Team 6 to bring a “special ops” strategy to voter registration and as a tribute the 6 women who were his most loyal volunteers in 2018.

Jason also brings show biz into politics. He spent 18 years in the entertainment industry as a producer and writer. When Trump was elected the first time, Jason quit his job in Hollywood and changed his life forever....

**Hello Jason....welcome to Making Waves for Democracy....
You’re on....**