

**7/27 -- T.O Opening Remarks. (811 words)**

**Welcome to Making Waves for Democracy's 81<sup>st</sup> monthly meeting since we started amazing and accomplished all-volunteer group in January, 2017....!**

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**I just returned from nearly a week hiking in the woods, in the northern Sierras - near Reno. There were many lakes there (and deer and chipmunks but no bears though) and a healthy, mixed-conifer forest.**

**Importantly and much to my surprise, there was zero connectivity....NO news. No social media. No phone. No texts or emails. At first, I went through withdrawal, then I found BLISS.....And as the hours passed slowly after we hiked, I sat and watched the light change. And I was reminded about what is REALLY important....and how little and insignificant we each are....**

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**And TODAY happens to be my 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday! As I enter the final quarter of my life, I remember as a lifelong EAGLES fan, that the plays this quarter are surprising and often positive.**

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**Ok – I’m still catching up with the news! As Barrie said at the outset, my heart breaks for the Palestinians and the thousands of victims of ICE. But I know in my gut that ALL TYRANTS FALL and I love the fact that the Trump is in DEEP SHIT.....**

**I know I know it’s all Epstein all the time.....(Really? 1000 FBI agents scrubbed the files in March?) And I got right back into it.... Will he pardon Ghisela....??**

**BUT then I listened to Simon Rosenberg whose HOPIUM CHRONICLES on Substack I get daily – He is GREAT, by the way.... He says: DO NOT “CHASE THE NEW”. By that he means, DO NOT OBSESS about anything that the Trump regime puts out....They WANT us to do that, to get drawn into their daily chaos -- They put press releases out at 6 p.m. Friday and in the middle of the night IN ORDER TO distract and confuse and ultimately suppress us, the opposition, the resistance. They want us, as Simon puts it, “to chase the new.”**

**....We already know he’s a RAPIST. BUT the MAGA base is just now learning it. So it’s more important than ever that you reach out to your relatives and neighbors – and, dare I say FRIENDS -- who are MAGA. And BE KIND....(You may need to meditate or pray first.....)**

**I do not know yet what will bring him down definitively forever. But I do know – and was reminded by messaging guru Anat**

Shenker-Osorio (with help from Michael Podhoretz) that the U.S. euphemizes a lot. Do NOT ever call it the Trump Administration - as the media does -- call it what it is and is called around the world: “the Trump regime”....And he is failing, bigly. Aside from EpsteinGate and the upcoming Tariffs that go into effect Aug 1, Oct 1 is the deadline for the federal budget – the “MAGA Murder Budget”. The MAGA MURDER BUDGET. Let’s always call their Big Ugly Bill that!

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I love the following quotation, from Susie T. Buell’s recent *The Rising*: QUOTE “This is beyond partisan differences. This is a blatant abuse of power and a flagrant flaunting of corruption. We want none of it. We reject *the rule of the cruel* (My English major self LOVES the rhyme in “WE REJECT THE RULE OF THE CRUEL”) and we refuse to let anyone dictate our lives by force or fear. Our conscience guides us toward common ground and peace. Our souls know authenticity, connection, and truth. Our hearts see with clarity that those who are dismantling our lives, our democracy, and our country don’t know the difference between right and wrong. We will not stop. We will not rest. We will continue to bear witness until power is returned to the people and to those who still remember how to lead with love, govern with justice,

choose kindness over cruelty, and serve with humility and utmost humanity.” UNQUOTE

**WE WILL WIN!** Take this time to find joy at least once in every day, and to keep your humanity. **Do not let them steal your better self!** And, keep fighting daily in at least one of the thousand ways there are to do that. And stay connected with your tribe.

We will update you at our next meeting on where we’re headed here at *Making Waves for Democracy....*

I want to throw it back to Barrie to introduce our special guest today but first I want to say this: **I love this man.** back in the day I worked closely for many years with Jon Davidson. We built the AIDS and LGBTQ movements together – with many others, many of whom are gone now: He’s really special; **his brain should be a national treasure** (and I don’t say that lightly). It makes sense that he’s brought his legal skills to our foremost national resistance group now, the ACLU.... Listen well to his wisdom!

**BACK TO YOU, BARRIE.....**