

April 2022

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Finally: The DDC plans its **first post-COVID in-person event: The Champagne Brunch** to be held either **May 14 or 15** featuring a distinguished keynote speaker. Details will be announced ASAP. *Welcome Back!*

The Davis College Democrats Year in Review

By: Michelle Andrews, Davis College Democrats President



(Ed. Note The DDC and DCD enjoy a closely working, synergistic relationship.)

The life of a Davis College Democrat is unlike anything else. Every day, we need to balance our schoolwork, extracurriculars, political research, participation in

DCD's activities, the stress of the world around us, and still leave enough time to eat. The commitments that come with being a College Democrat are never restricted to 9-5, Monday through Friday, or only during the school year. Before the school year even started, we were able to be the margin of victory for Mia Bonta's Assembly campaign by dusting off our **walking** shoes and **knocking** on hundreds of doors in August. We collaborated with other regional Young Democrats chapters for **phonebanks against the recall**. In September, we returned to campus for the first time since the pandemic started. We had more than 25 DCDers participate in our first **phonebank** of the school year **for Virginia** with Sister District, and we made over **1500 calls in one day!** We also hosted a **letter-writing** event where we were able to write over **140 letters to Virginia** in a single morning at the Davis Farmers Market.

Our work is not limited to campaigns, though. We have played active roles in several **statewide bills** that have benefited our fellow students across the state. From last year's AB 1456 (Cal Grant Reform Act) and AB 928 (Transfer Student Achievement Act) to this year's SB 886 (Student and Faculty Housing Act), DCD has shown up for key bills and lobbied the legislature to get them passed. When UC Berkeley was struck with the enrollment freeze decision a couple weeks ago that threatened access to a UC education for thousands of young people in our state, DCD showed up at the Capitol on the first day of finals week to demand that our state legislators take action. And, it worked! SB 118 passed unanimously through both houses and was signed into law by Governor Newsom that very day. DCD also made up the majority of the UC Davis delegation to the recent UC Student Association Student Lobby Conference. We spent the first few days of spring break learning how to **lobby legislators** about student issues and leading a marathon lobbying session consisting of more than 10 lobby visits in one day.

We have **hosted** countless **elected** officials at our general meetings the last two quarters including Congressman Mike Thompson, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Davis City Councilmember Lucas Frerichs, and Davis Mayor Gloria Partida. Our endorsement process for 2022 is in full swing, with our members already voting to **endorse** Cynthia **Rodriguez** for Yolo County District Attorney, Lucas **Frerichs** for Yolo County Supervisor District 2, Congressman Mike **Thompson** for CD-5, and more! Our membership is stronger than ever, with dozens of new regular members showing up to our weekly meetings and gaining voting status within their first few months on-campus at UC Davis.

Our **advocacy work** in our state's Democratic Party doesn't end in Davis. Current and past DCD E-Board members were recently elected as the new President of the California College Democrats (Adriana Leal) and Vice Chair of the California Young Democrats Labor Caucus (Michelle Andrews)!

(Continued p.4)

Club Board

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Giovinazzi
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Bob Bockwinkel
Sean Raycraft
Linda Deos
Tom Dowling
Jonathon Howard
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Bob Marr
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Bill Julian, Jim Provenza
& Bob Schelen
Photography:
Luba Schmid

BENEFACTORS

\$5000
Claudia & Roger
Salquist
\$1000+
Bob, Marie &
Julie Bockwinkel
Arun Sen (*Memoriam*)
Stephen & Robin
Souza
KathyWilliams-Fossdahl
G. Richard Yamagata
\$500+
Will & Nichole Arnold
Ameer Alsawaf
Corky Brown &
Judith Ann Wilkins
Jan & Davis Campbell
Bob & Elly Fairclough
Rep. John Garamendi
Giles Giovinazzi &
Jolynn Shoemaker
Richard & Kyoko Luna
Bob Poppenga &
Amy Kapatkin
Carl & Luba Schmid
PATRON (\$200+)
Michael Adams &
Lori Llewelyn
Asm. Cecilia
Aguiar-Curry
George Bruening &
Valerie Williamson
Steve Burns & Pat
Moore-Pickett
Linda Deos & Eva Brock
Tom & Nancy
Dowling
Delaine Eastin
Glen Erickson & Jean
Canary
Lucas & Stacie Frerichs

Democratic News

Democratic Transplants

by David Shapira, a New DDC Member

Believe it or not, Arizona has Democrats, although two fewer than it did before. My wife, Rosemary, and I relocated to Davis from Tempe, Arizona with our two daughters in May of 2019. In our first few months as Davis residents, we began to notice a hole in our lives as we'd always been very involved with our local Democratic clubs. We found the Davis Democratic Club online, paid our dues and planned to attend an upcoming board meeting. Then COVID-19 hit. We've been looking forward to finally meeting more of our fellow Davis Democrats in person and may actually soon have that chance (fingers crossed). In the meantime, we were asked by the board to introduce ourselves to the club.

Rosemary and I both started our careers as school teachers. She transitioned to being a school program leader for a family resource program in the years before we left Arizona. Since we've been in California, Rosemary has resumed her work providing family support services with the Sacramento Children's Home.

I've had a dual-track career in education and elected leadership. I've been a teacher, university adjunct professor and school administrator. I've also been a school board member, city council member, state representative and state senator. In my last term in the Arizona legislature, I was the Senate minority leader, which made me the ranking Democratic elected official in Arizona at the time.

We came to California because I was offered the opportunity to lead the California School Employees Association Governmental Relations department. Some of you may have known my predecessor, Dave Low. We decided to live in Davis for many reasons, including the political values, culture, diversity, and the strong public school system. We've both also enjoyed the short commute to midtown from South Davis. Most importantly, we were looking for the best community in which to raise our two daughters, Elliot and Sydney.

Davis and California have been everything we'd hoped they would be – a community and a state of people who believe in quality education as a right not just afforded to those who can pay for it; who believe every worker should be able to organize and advocate for better wages, benefits and working conditions; and who celebrate the value and diversity of all people, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity or gender expression. Thank you for welcoming us.

Salute to Ed Constantini by Bob Schelen

Ed Constantini, a long time member of the Davis Democratic Club (perhaps a founding member) passed away at age 89 in January. Ed was one of my first professors at UCD. I had him for four classes. I did well in most of them (not all!) and always learned something new. Ed was brilliant, kind, and helped so many of us through our college years and beyond. He was an excellent advisor on all things political.

Ed's academic resume is truly remarkable and much of his research remains relevant today. He was a forerunner in studying survey and data election analysis as well as looking at the motivation and personal characteristics of political activists and intra-party conflicts. There is some irony there, in that Ed, himself, was a political activist. He served as Education Secretary to Governor Pat Brown in 1966. I was honored to serve with him on the California Democratic Party Executive Board for several years. He was a member of the CDP Rules Committee and in that role worked to open up the CDP and its processes to as many Democrats as possible.

This is how I knew Ed Constantini. Others can tell you of his role as a devoted university citizen and his academic profile (the many roles he played there.) Ed was married to Aggie, (a political activist, in her own right), for over 60 years.

As a valued member of the DDC he brought a smile to my face each time I saw him. We will miss him.

Seeking News about Ukraine by Tanya Chalupa



My family is originally from Donbas, Ukraine. It's been heartbreaking to watch the fighting there during the last eight years. Western media, based on Kremlin talking points, deemed the war was incited by separatists. Those in the Ukrainian diaspora know better. Now the war has spread to the rest of the country, impacting its 44+ million people. It is predicted the war will create hunger around the world by summer, as Ukraine is a major exporter of grain.

I've been waking up a couple of times during the night to check Twitter for the latest information on Ukraine, focusing on videos that would not appear on mainstream media. For example, when Putin sent a group of Chechen terrorists to kill Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, a Ukrainian officer stated in a video, (and I am paraphrasing), "We're not afraid of Putin's Chechens. They're not tough. The only thing that makes them unique are their beards and we'll cut those off." He spoke in Ukrainian and I don't know who he was addressing, but I learned a couple of days later when I saw the photos posted on Twitter that indeed the Chechen leader, Magomed Tushayev, was killed and his troop wiped out. At this writing, there have been three attempts on the life of President Zelensky, including by the notorious mercenaries known as the Wagner Group. It is rumored that someone in the Russian Federal Security Bureau, FSB, has been providing inside information to the Ukrainians, helping keep President Zelensky alive. The Wagner group was scattered and is in hiding.

I get some of my news about Ukraine from acquaintances who went there to help with the war efforts. I follow them on Twitter and Facebook, which Putin banned in Russia. I also follow my younger daughter's, Andrea Chalupa's, weekly podcast, *Gaslit Nation*, with bestselling author, Sarah Kendzior. The duo has been successful in reeling in votes for the Democrats around election time. California Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who was the only one in Congress to vote against the War in Iraq, dropped by for a visit. I was staying at Andrea's Brooklyn condo at the time and enjoyed co-hosting this remarkable individual. Putin, unlike Congresswoman Lee, is not a fan of Andrea's, who was one of the executive producers and the screen writer of the historical thriller, *Mr. Jones*, directed by internationally acclaimed, Agnieszka Holland. The film is about Stalin's genocide of the Ukrainian people known as Holodomor, where millions starved to death and how a Welsh Reporter, Gareth Jones, exposed the cover up by Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times reporter, Walter Duranty. Our family survived the Holodomor. Andrea had a scene in the movie taken from her grandfather's, Olexij Keis', memoir. Last year there was a showing of the film in Moscow, which hooligans broke up. Police let the hooligans go, but interrogated those in attendance late into the night. Indeed, Russia's war in Ukraine is about democracy and human rights.

I also stay tuned to another Davis High graduate and one that is also a former UCD Law School student who passed the California bar on first try, Alexandra Chalupa. She is my first born and the inspiration behind California's Child Seat Restraint Measure, after a car seat saved her life during an automobile crash in the Italian Alps. In 2016 Alexandra flagged Paul Manafort, which eventually cost him his position with Trump, and irked Devin Nunes enough to repeat her name during Trump's impeachment hearings. My husband, Leo, and I received calls from Brazil, Hawaii, and Europe asking if we were all right. They should have asked Alexandra that question as the attacks on her by the far right with Kremlin propaganda were vicious. She was cleared by the FEC of all the accusations filed against her. Alexandra's insightful analysis about Ukraine, Kremlin, and U.S politics can be found on alexandrachalupa@substack.com.

No one knows how Putin's war against Ukraine will end.

(continued p.4)

Ukraine (continued from p 3)

In the earlier phase of the war, Russian soldiers were giving themselves up when they learned what their mission entailed, this included a battalion. Now some Russian soldiers are going door to door killing civilians and firing on cars carrying families. Yet, Western nations are afraid to upset Putin because he holds control over Russia's nuclear weapons, although there are others around him who oversee it. Ukraine gave up its nukes in 1994 and signed the Budapest Memorandum with Russia, United States, United Kingdom and France that those nations would protect Ukraine in the event of an attack. Well, that didn't work out well, did it? Poland, a NATO country and one experienced with their Russian neighbor, provided Ukraine's Air Force with landing runways without the world experiencing any nuclear fireworks. But what is holding back the rest of the West from providing defense shields over the Ukrainian skies? Are they going to sit back and just watch as Putin's bombs hit indiscriminately on civilians, schools, hospitals, and ambulances? He won't stop with Ukraine. Putin has a Czar/God on Earth complex. But that's another story.

My nephew lives in Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine. Less than two weeks ago it was full of students attending its many universities. The city was brutally destroyed by Russian vacuum bombs, which give off stronger heat and last longer. I have been unable to reach my nephew, hoping and praying he's still alive. During wartime, hope and prayers are usually all one can count on. If you want to help Ukraine in the fight for democracy and survival, donate to any of the following: The National Bank of UA; Come Back Alive; Red Cross Ukraine; Revived Soldiers Ukraine; United Help Ukraine; Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Razom Emergency Response Fund.

Tanya Chalupa is a former editor for the DDC Newsletter and the force behind California's child car seat law. She is recipient of the National Highway Traffic Safety, NHTSA, Public Service Award. She is a published author of true crime and her first fiction, "East Bay Murders," is based on a true story with a Ukrainian American twist.

Davis College Dems. (continued from p. 1)

We maintain strong connections with our club's alumni through collaborations with the Davis College Democrats Alumni Association, many of whom now hold high positions in our state and federal government. We are all actively working every day to create a better world and future for everyone.

We would not be able to accomplish what we do without the support of the Davis Democratic Club. DDC has always been one of the strongest and most dependable supporters of DCD, and we could not be more grateful to have such a strong partner in our advocacy within and beyond Davis. We were honored to receive a **sponsorship from DDC** for our upcoming *Indigo Awards* on April 11 from 7-9pm at the International House in Davis. We are incredibly excited for this to be our first in-person Indigo Awards in three years. The Indigo Awards are our only fundraiser of the year, and all of the money we raise from this event will be spent getting students who are new to politics involved in the campaign and advocacy work we do, such as by sending them on campaign invasions around our communities and the country. We work hard to ensure that any UC Davis student's financial situation is not the reason why they are unable to access the Democratic Party.

The theme of this year is Grassroots, and we are ecstatic to be honoring Saira Delgado (Secretary of Yolo County Democratic Central Committee, former Membership Director, and Field Rep. for Asm. Aguiar-Curry), Dan Carson (Davis City Council Member), Katie Rodger (President of UC-AFT Davis Chapter), and one other surprise honoree to be announced at a later date. If you would like to personally sponsor or attend our Indigo Awards, you can purchase a ticket or sponsorship at this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/indigo22>. We also will be accepting checks addressed to: Davis College Democrats, P.O. Box 74305, Davis, CA 95616. Thank you for your continued support of DCD, we work hard every day to make you all proud and we look forward to our next update for you with even more **amazing progress in our state being made by the Davis College Democrats!**

Judith Gabor
 E.F. (Pat) Goldstene
 Rick Gonzales
 Judy & Ben Gonzales
 Catherine & Calvin Handy
 Dale Heckman
 Pat & Wes Honbo
 Bill Julian &
 Robin Kulakow
 Teresa Kaneko
 Gene & Carol Livingston
 Ruben & Elizabeth
 Martinez
 Ann Meares
 Judith Moores
 Grant Noda
 Demosthenes Pappagianis
 Warren & Jill Pickett
 Jim & Donna Provenza
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 Sandra & Jeffrey Granett
 MRC Greenwood
 Edward Hartnett
 Gary Hopkins
 Roy Kaplan &
 Janet Saunders
 Bruce Kutter
 Elizabeth Lasensky
 Brett Lee
 Robert Lawson
 Victor Lim
 Jerry & Kathryn Marr
 John Mott-Smith
 Dave & Robbie Murphy
 Sean Neal
 Pam Nieberg
 Gloria Partida
 Lea Rosenberg

DDC BOARD ELECTION



The screen shot shows how the DDC Board has been successfully holding monthly meetings and conducting business as normal by Zoom since the onset of the pandemic. The regularly scheduled election of DDC Officers was held at the March 1 meeting at which the following were elected for a two-year term of office: **Pres:** Stephen Souza **V.P.:** Rick Gonzales **Recording Secretary:** G. Richard Yamagata. **Treas.:** Ameer Alsawaf **Publicity:** Giles Giovinazzi **Membership:** Gary Hopkins. We thank them all for their continuing service during this difficult period.

Davis Democratic Club Board Endorses Cynthia Rodriguez by Moisés Díaz

On this International Women’s Day, we have an opportunity to celebrate the dynamic women who call Yolo County “home.” One such woman is Cynthia Rodriguez, a longtime Winters resident.

Ms. Rodriguez has thrown her hat in the ring in the race for Yolo Co. District Attorney. When elected, Cynthia will be the first woman and first person of color to hold the office.

Ms. Rodriguez has 40 years of experience working in California’s justice system ranging from prosecutorial experience in the Department of Corrections to serving as an advisor to California’s Health and Human Services. Along with direct government experience,

Ms. Rodriguez has also managed over 200+ employees while serving our state at the Department of Mental Health and was responsible for multi-million dollar budget. Her heart, however, is in providing free “legal services for the rights of people with disabilities” and “keep[ing] innocent people out of prison.

Ms. Rodriguez has been endorsed by former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin, Yolo County Supervisor Don Saylor, the Chair of Yolo County ACLU’s Natalie Wormeli, and in January 2022, the Yolo County Democratic Central Committee, by unanimous vote, among many others. Help make history this June in electing Cynthia Rodriguez for Yolo County District Attorney!

Tony & Kathy Ruiz
 Lisa Yep Salinas
 Joan Sallee
 Gary Sandy
 Rosemary & David
 Schapira
 Bob Schneider &
 Liz Merry
 Maynard Skinner &
 Cristy Jensen
 Barbara Slemmons
 Cass Sylvia & Craig
 Reynolds
 Nancy Stone &
 Barry Tharp
 Joyce Trujillo
 Rick Vulliet
 Ken & Diane Wagstaff
 Marty West
 Julia Whitmer
 James & Betty Woo
 Donald Winters
 Tilahun Yilma
 Richard & Jane Zeiger
PASSPORT (\$50)
 Jan Agee
 Peter Adolay
 Sheila Allen
 David & Sue Barnette
 Delee & Jerry Beavers
 Walter Bunter
 Pearl Carpenter
 Margo & Marcus Clark
 Jamie Carothers
 Ed Costantini
 Marjorie Dolcini
 Penny Gore
 Dave Griffin
 Alan Hirsch & Sandra
 Sandronsky
 Jonathon Howard &
 Theresa Costa
 Katie Kindston
 Helen Krell
 Barry Melton
 Bruce Mickle
 Melissa Moreno &
 Steve Nyholm
 Don Morrill & Sue Barton
 Jesse & Cruz Ortiz
 Joseph & BJ Payyappilly
 Judy Reynolds
 Frances Rose
 Nancy Schaezlein-Zipse
 Donna Skinner
 Marc Vayssieres
 Sanine Watkins
 Roni & Stephen White
 Janellyn & Terry Whittier
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Democratic Newsletter

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www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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