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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Love Your Electeds



Our local elected leaders work hard on our behalf. In recognition of their service, the DDC holds an annual Valentine-Day themed “Love Your Electeds” party to thank them. Sixty Club members attended this year’s event, which was held at a new venue, the John Natsoulas Gallery. The DDC greatly appreciates Mr. Natsoulas’s generosity and thanks him for inviting the Club to use his gallery.

Among the currently elected officials in attendance were Assmelymember **Cecilia Aguiar-Curry**, County Clerk-Recorder **Jesse Salinas**, County Superintendent of Schools **Garth Lewis**, County Board of Education Trustee **Melissa Moreno**, Davis Mayor **Brett Lee** and DJUSD Board Member **Cindy Pickett**, all of whom presented brief remarks highlighting their recent activities. **Cecilia** reported that she had passed 34 bills into law, a truly outstanding accomplishment. She is currently working on much needed legislation for universal background checks. Among his many other activities, **Jesse** has devoted himself to educating and involving high school age students in the political process. The results of his important project will last many lifetimes. Along the same lines, **Garth** and **Melissa** described well thought out school programs to open career opportunities for young people, particularly those that may not be college-bound. For her part, **Cindy** described how the School Board is wrestling with that perennial issue, the budget. **Brett**, who is always appreciative of others, acknowledged the collegiality of his City Council colleagues and then turned the tables by thanking the Davis Democratic Club for the work that it does.

Democratic News

Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Photography:

Luba Schmid

Sun., Early June (Time and Place TBA) The Annual Champagne Brunch is being planned for early June. A recently elected State Constitutional officer has tentatively agreed to be the key-note speaker. Watch for further announcements.

Tues., Mar. 5, 7:00-9:00 pm. Monthly Board Meeting, Blanchard Room in the Davis Library The Board conducts routine business and plans future events. All members are invited.

DDC Book Review by Elly Fairclough: *Lies, Laptops and Spies*

The Plot to Destroy Democracy by Malcom Nance. 293 pp. Hachette Books,



When Hillary Clinton spoke at the Mondavi Center in October 2017, she was spot-on about Russia's intentions in the 2016 elections, which she characterized as a new kind of cold war. In ***The Plot to Destroy Democracy***, NBC counter-terrorism analyst Malcolm Nance makes a compelling case that President Donald J. Trump is a pawn in Vladimir Putin's overarching endgame to create a globally connected "Axis of Autocracies." In Trump

Putin saw an opportunity to undermine America internationally and move against the sanctions that were financially devastating to his inner circle of oligarchs. Steve Bannon soon became his operative within the Trump campaign, which helps to explain why a sitting US President is attacking our nation's allies in a manner that supports Putin's game plan to destabilize Europe. Nance characterizes Putin in his second term as a neo-czarist who is now able to leverage President Trump the same way he manages profiteering Russian oligarchs. It's an unholy alliance. Meanwhile, we watch from the sidelines as our president seems to transition from an unwitting asset to a willing one. Constant domestic drama and salacious news stories keep the country diverted from the underlying existential threat.

The book *PTDD* gives extensive background on the Kremlin and the pre- and post- Soviet rise of Putin to illustrate how espionage tactics employed over the years have advanced conservative, authoritarian regimes that benefit the uber-rich. Disinformation campaigns have resulted in religious and other organizations being co-opted in the UK, Germany, the Czech Republic, Greece, Austria, the Netherlands, Hungary, Sweden, Poland and Italy. The United States of America is the biggest prize yet and now, says Nance, the hacking of the mind of America is underway.

Unfortunately, *PTDD* is hastily edited, and includes a lengthy, tedious exposition of who's who among former KGB operatives and oligarchs. Regardless whether you find *PTDD* a tour-de-force or an overwrought extrapolation of a conspiracy theory, it is an expertly guided dive into the realm of geo-politics. This is a deep plunge into powerful global currents that generate the political *el ninos* and tsunamis that are upending our lives.

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Local Election to Select Delegates to the State Democratic Party

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On Jan. 13, 350 local Democrats voted in the biennial election, which was held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, to select delegates to the Democratic State Central Committee. Delegates, who are chosen according to their State Assembly Districts, represent their communities at regional party meetings and at CDP Conventions. These delegates essentially vote on all state party business such as ballot and candidate endorsements as well as the election of State Party officials.

The meeting was Chaired by Bob Schelen, (who recently, graciously agreed to serve yet another term as Chair of the Yolo County Democratic Party) and staffed, in part, by volunteers from the Davis Democratic Club.

The high level of attendance at this event demonstrates that grass roots volunteers continue to have an intense interest to participate in the upcoming 2020 Presidential Election.



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& Barry Tharp
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Mariko Yamada &
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Champagne Brunch

TBA

A Sunday in early June

Davis Democratic Club

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rent events and photos:
www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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