

February, 2020

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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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## *Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy* by *Frank Maurer, Exec. Dir.*

[Editor Note: Hoping that you find it informative, the Newsletter publishes this article as an example of local efforts and activism to understand and combat climate change.]

If you have lived in Davis over the past three decades, you will likely have read a local newspaper ad, inviting everyone on a wildlife walk or a dinner cruise on Lake Berryessa, combining a view of our wonderful California nature with a six-course dinner with wine!

The Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy has educated many from SF to Auburn and beyond about our human and natural history, including the role of our native bunchgrasses which covered millions of acres of our state. This effort concluded in the establishment of Purple Needle Grass (*Stipa pulchra*) as being designated as our official state grass, especially studied by fourth grade students in their curriculum of our state's history. This grass was ground as a flour in Native cuisine and now is used in habitat restoration.

The Conservancy lands have been transferred to the UCD Natural Reserve System and is one of the 18 out of 41 Reserves designated to study in-depth climate change effects on our California ecology and indirectly the health and welfare of our human inhabitants.

By following the process of climate change on the Reserve, we will follow ever more of what is unfolding which will affect species extinctions, increases of diseases, agricultural possibilities, and water availability. This is important for all of us, but so far the Democratic Party appears to be the party which acknowledges that this is really happening, astounding as it seems with so many examples staring us in the face.

Whole bird ranges are moving north, there are fewer bird species which migrate, grape growers in California are purchasing land further north, even Canada, because many grape varieties will no longer grow well here with increasing temperatures. Insects carrying disease have shifting ranges throughout the world. Seabird populations are starving because of fish ranges that are shifting. Polar bears are scavenging human garbage and consuming cliff dwelling seabird eggs because of lack of hunting areas on ice flows. (Also, polar bears and grizzly bears are hybridizing as a result of shifting ranges!) Grape vineyards in France are dying because of lack of rain. Nairobi, Kenya, now has a mosquito population and with it malaria, which did not occur before. Orcas off Washington state and whale populations may be facing starvation because of shifting food sources.

Look at our California pine forests (just drive east on I80 in the foothills), they are dying because of large populations of bark beetles which can now survive through the warmer winters and have a huge head start in the spring, overpowering many more trees.

In Davis, we no longer have the winter freezes we had 30 years ago. My kids were skating then on our fish ponds and I could not deliver fish to restaurants because it was impossible to drag the seines through the ice. Financially, it was a blow for my week's farm income (an additional profession besides biology). With a trend towards less winter snow, California's water supply will be more and more affected. With warmer air, rain storms in many area will be larger and longer. Of course, a warmer climate will see more devastating fires: Just consider California, Africa, and now Australia.

Now to help students studying on Quail Ridge, I have set up an endowment in perpetuity to aid student research there. (It is partly in memory of my late wife, Lenora Timm, UCD Professor of Linguistics who worked with me with the QR land trust during the 31 years of our marriage.)

Tax donations should be made out to UC Regents. The memo should note Maurer/Timm QR Student Endowment. They should be mailed to: Sarah Oktay, UC Davis John Muir Institute Natural Reserve System, One Shields Ave "The Barn", Davis, CA 95616. To donate online go to: [https:// give.ucdavis.edu/NRSD/QRRGIFT](https://give.ucdavis.edu/NRSD/QRRGIFT) (and mention: For Maurer/Timm Student Endowment). If you mention this, QRWQ will match your donation!

I still give walks by appointment to the Reserve and welcome you to call me at (530) 219-4477 to make arrangements. Any donations on the walk will also go to the Student Endowment.

Thank you to this community and many others for the several decades of support.

# Democratic News

## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

**Tues., Feb 4, 7:00-9:00 pm. Monthly Board Meeting. Small Room of the Davis Library.** The Board conducts routine business and plans future events. All members are invited.

**Sun., Feb. 23, 4:00-6:00 pm. Love Your Electeds: John Natsoulas Gallery, 521 1st St.** This annual Valentine themed party to express our appreciation for the service provided by local elected leaders. Bring a favorite dish to share.

*Editor Note:* The Club has not endorsed a candidate in the race for the Yolo County Supervisor District #4 and presents this candidate statement as an informational service. The December 2019 Newsletter (available online) previously published statements by Jim Provenza and Linda Deos.

### *Campaign Statement by David Abramson, Candidate Yolo County Supervisor District #4*



In this very moment we face perhaps the greatest challenge in human history.

The path forward is becoming clear - we must address the climate crisis and the crisis of a system that has led to ecological destruction, wealth extracted from our communities, vast inequality, and disempowerment of the people. We must take timely, thoughtful, and collaborative action!

It is easy to feel hopeless and fearful. It can feel like the problems are so big, we don't even know where to begin.

I believe that all great moments in history have started with local action. Let us begin to address these issues right here in Yolo County!

We can secure our precious water, food, and soil resources. We can build a thriving economy that benefits all people. We can withstand and begin to reverse the impacts of climate change. We can build a model for a regenerative future that goes well-beyond sustainability.

I have been researching climate science, ecology, economics, regenerative community design, and human history over much of the last 10 years. I have participated in grass-roots community action for clean water, healthy food, economic justice & prosperity, and human rights and I see that it is all possible.

I have seen living proof of what we can do when we work together and put the needs of people and planet front and center.

I am part of a team developing a Local Green New Deal, a community-driven platform for local climate action and community resilience. I have authored a 12-point framework for a Local Green New Deal that is the foundation of my candidacy for Yolo County Supervisor.

I invite you to vote for me for Yolo County Supervisor if you believe these to be the greatest issues of our times. Know that I will put my heart and soul into creating and implementing a Yolo County Green New Deal. Know that I will fight every day to ensure a more just, equitable, healthy, and abundant place we call home. Know that I have the background, drive, and collaborative approach to get it done despite the challenges that will arise.

Know that your voices will be heard, and that I will fight for you, for your children, your grandchildren, and for future generations yet to come. [davidabramsonforyolo.com](http://davidabramsonforyolo.com)

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*continued*

**Alan Hirsch reporting:**

Thirty Davisites showed up at a “No War with Iran” Rally at the Farmers’ Market on Saturday 1/4/20. They were upset by Trump’s escalation of the US conflict with Iran by his order to assassinate one of Iran’s top

Generals. The assassination was done via a drone strike while the General was visiting a foreign country, Iraq.

Chanting “Fund Schools Not War” and waving colorful hand-made signs, the protesters were a combination of the Quaker Meeting’s peace vigil group and the new Yolo Grassroots Collective. The Quaker peace vigil group has been meeting at this corner regularly since December 2001 when they protested the start of the 2nd Iraqi war. The new peace group, the Yolo Grassroots Collective, is being organized by Tahnee Sweeney. This group is inviting other interested people to join them in an organizational gathering next Saturday 1/11 at 11am at the Farmers’ Market to share hot cocoa and make future plans. They will meet at the benches west of the children’s carousel. They can also be contacted at: [YoloGrassRootsCollective@gmail.com](mailto:YoloGrassRootsCollective@gmail.com).

The Davis rally was one of at least 70 rallies across the US that seem to have popped up in the short 36 hours after the US attack, which was unveiled by Trump in what seem to be a hastily called press conference at his Mar-a-Lago golf club.

**Spending Your Money:** Through your contributions, the DDC supports local Democratic activities making it a reliable, nearly essential, partner of our County Democratic Party. The DDC always rents the Davis Democratic campaign HQ (usually the *de facto* campaign HQ of the YCDP), provides it with funds for supplies, staff salaries and other expenses and also contributes directly to the campaigns of local Democratic candidates as well as endorsed ballot measures, etc., etc. Occasionally, the DDC contributes funds and other resources to competitive races in other districts and even in other states. As just one recent example in 2018, **your contributions** to the DDC were used to help **flip 7 of the then remaining 14 Republican-held Congressional Districts** in California by our direct contribution to *Flip the 14*. Together, we helped make a huge difference in Washington DC!

At its January meeting, the DDC Board unanimously voted to contribute to the **Senatorial Campaign of Mark Kelly**, who is currently in a very competitive race to unseat the Republican incumbent in Arizona. His victory would provide one pathway for Democrats to gain a Senate majority. We hope that you approve of how your money is being used and that you will continue to provide much needed support to the DDC. The Board welcomes your advice in these matters.

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Democratic Newsletter

Annual Love your  
"Electeds" Party  
Sunday, Feb. 23  
4:00-6:00 pm  
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See the website for cur-  
rent events and photos:  
www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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