

February, 2018

Nuclear Weapons
Calendar/ and Candidate
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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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“Why?” A Teach-in on Nuclear Weapons by Carl Schmid



Guided by Bill Julian and DDC Pres. Steve Souza, the Club held an old-fashioned 60's-style teach-in on the dangers of nuclear weapons, an event which was attended by nearly 200 concerned citizens at the Unitarian Church. The focus of discussion was HR 669, (a Lieu/Garamendi resolution) placing the President's use of nuclear weapons under much needed congressional oversight. Briefly, this bill states that the President may not issue a first strike with nuclear weapons unless authorized to do so by Congress. The distinguished panel consisted of Sarah Bidgood of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute, Prof. J. Sims of McGeorge School of Law and Congressman John Garamendi.

Ms. Bidgood outlined the history, complications and practical limitations of international treaties and diplomacy involving the development and possession of nuclear weapons. Briefly, we (*i.e.* mostly the USA and Russia) inherited a legacy of 15,000 nuclear weapons from the height of the Cold War and do not have a foreseeable path to entirely dispose of our loathsome inheritance.

Prof. Sims, in turn, considered the issues surrounding HR 669 from the perspective of US Constitutional law, examining the extent to which the proposed legislation would effectively limit the war

making powers of a President. Briefly, legal precedence is murky and any disagreements over the interpretation of the act would probably have to be litigated after the fact. Nonetheless, it would offer guidance where none presently exists. (*continued p3*)



Democratic News

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

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Photography:

Luba Schmid

Tues., Feb. 6, 7:00-9:00 pm., DDC Board Meeting, Home of Steve Souza, 2424 Rodin Pl. Regularly scheduled Board Meetings to organize Club activities. All members invited to attend.

Sun., Feb 11, 6:00-8:00 pm. Love Your Electeds. I-House, Davis. Annual event to honor local elected leaders featuring a buffet dinner (share your favorite dish) and informal conversations with elected officials.

Ed. Note, The Newsletter publishes Davis City Council Candidate Statements as a service to its readership; the Club does not currently endorse any candidate.



Luis Rios, Davis City Council Candidate:

Born at the Davis Community Hospital in 1970, and raised in Winters, I lived in Yolo County Public Housing the first years of my life. As a child from a labor household, I attended Head Start and Family Home Child Care while my father worked in agriculture for the Richard Rominger Farm and other farms near Davis and Winters.

I learned from my family, the value of hard work, integrity, honesty, helping others, respect and principles that shape who I am today. In high school, I worked in Winters City Hall and met local elected officials like Robert Chapman, Mayor of Winters. Another summer job was at Lake Solano Park, where I worked for Michael Martin, who later was Mayor of Winters and Council member.

During my adolescence, my father taught me about Cesar Chavez, John F. Kennedy, democracy and social justice. Since then, I hold close my father's words and stories of struggle and overcoming hardships. My father passed in April 2017 and my mother lives in Winters.

During my first year at UC Davis, I hosted low income Central Valley high school students who were visiting the campus at our residence hall. Another momentous memory was my commitment to local agriculture, where I earned a Commercial Driver License to haul Roma tomatoes from Yolo County to canneries. I drove an eighteen-wheeler and transported 80,000 pounds of local tomatoes!

I earned my Ph.D. at Columbia University (2002) while living in the Upper West Side when tragedy struck on September 11, 2001. Following my studies, I returned home to Yolo County to raise a family. We have a four-year old daughter in preschool and an eleven year-old son in sixth grade.

At the California State Department of Education, I work in and oversee statewide programs in early education. My areas are: workforce development and contract administration, including multiple funding applications (Request for Proposal, Request for Application, Non-Competitive Bid, and Service Agreements), contract and scope of work development, working with contractors, including budget change proposals and approving budget change adjustments and expenditures. For over 11 years as a state education staffer/contract monitor, I have managed statewide contracts and interface with state agencies involved in the state contracting process.

Currently, I serve on the City of Davis Personnel Board, School Site Council at my son's school, Cesar Chavez Elementary, and have served on funding committees for the school district. I have served as a Cabin Leader at Sly Park and volunteer at my daughter's preschool, and the Davis Boy Scouts, Troop 139. My family spends a lot of time in Downtown Davis, participates in city programs for children, and we love the parks and greenbelts.

As a Davis City Council Member, I will focus on homelessness, improving the downtown, smart growth, and affordable housing for students, seniors, families with children and Davisites.

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Teach-in on Nuclear Weapons (continued from p.1)**Patron***Continued from p2*

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For his part, Rep. Garamendi happened to have very recently met with technical experts at Los Alamos, who are currently developing preliminary plans for a hugely ambitious project to completely modernize every aspect of the US's nuclear capability. This "modernization" program is being advanced by the Trump administration and Republican Congressional leadership. Upon reviewing these plans, our representative was prompted to ask the very simple question, "**Why?**"

As Congressman Garamendi explained, following the recent \$1,500,000,000,000 (this translates to \$1.5 trillion but seeing all of the zeros is instructive) tax cut to fund suitable lifestyles for the extremely wealthy, Congress is going about the business of cutting health care, education and so forth, while undertaking this estimated \$1,200,000,000,000 "modernization" of nuclear weapons. As the Congressman explained, the word modernization does not capture the scope of this plan, which in addition to toying with hugely destructive nuclear weapons, will introduce a new class of bombers (costing \$5000,000,000 for each), a new class of subs that dwarf the bomber's price, new ICBMs (do we really even need any of those?) and the list goes on and on. These initial cost projections ignore inevitable cost overruns. Yet, the cost will be even higher! Because of the tax cuts, these purchases will be made with borrowed money carrying interest all at the expense of investing in and caring for people. Echoing Rep. Garamendi's question, "**Why,**" would we ever do such things?

Given this chilling synopsis, the Congressman was asked the question, "What can we possibly do to make a difference?" His answer was to do exactly what those in attendance were doing there on that day, "**Stay engaged.**"

The Davis Democratic Club thanks Bill Julian and Steve Souza for engaging us with this informative teach-in.

Reminder: As of the first of each calendar year, **club memberships** are payable at your earliest convenience. A red dot on your address label serves as a gentle reminder. You may pay your 2018 membership at our February 11 event or mail a check using the form on p.4. Thank you for your continuing and robust support of the DDC in 2018!

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Democratic Newsletter

**Sunday
Feb. 11
6:00 pm
Love Your Electeds
I-House, Davis**

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