

**June, 2012
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“I love the Democratic Party!” says 60-year club member Betty Weir. by Tim Fenton



Betty (r.) with long-time friend, Barbara Slemmons

Betty Weir was born into an intensely Democratic Irish Catholic family in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1915, a time when women in most states could not vote. She has been living the life of a truly dedicated Democrat ever since. We had a chance to talk with Betty recently about highlights from that long, long life.

Betty fondly recalls her high school days in Madison when she campaigned for her dad who ran for the Wisconsin State Assembly. Dad lost to one of the La Follettes, the famous Wisconsin progressive Republican political clan, but Betty had been bitten by the political bug for life.

She cast her first Democratic vote in 1936, the year FDR beat the stuffing out of poor Alf Landon. She had just turned 21, the voting age back in those days, and was studying at the University of Wisconsin. Betty recalls going to the polls as a young woman with her whole family for every election.

When the Silver Star, Bronze

Star and Purple Heart-decorated Major Bill Weir came home from World War II to enroll at Wisconsin as a graduate student in biochemistry, he was fixed up with Betty on a blind date. Nine months later, in 1946, she and Bill were wed. They moved to Davis in 1948 when Bill joined the faculty of the UC Davis Ag.

School, where he eventually became chairman of the Department of Nutrition. He passed away in 2003.

Betty recalls that Davis was a very Republican town when the Weirs arrived here. There was a Republican women's club and a Republican men's club but no Democratic club of any gender. Things started to swing Democratic, she says, when UCD added arts and sciences to its agricultural offerings and became a full fledged university attracting all those Liberal liberal arts types to town.

In 1952, Betty heard that some Democratic women in Davis were forming an Adlai Stevenson Club to support the Illinois Governor's presidential campaign against Republican Dwight Eisenhower. She became one of the first to join this predecessor of today's club. After the campaign, the club was rechristened as the Davis Women's Democratic Club and when some of the Democratic men folk joined up, it was renamed once more as the Davis Democratic Club. For a

time early in the club's life, Betty shared the club presidency with two other women – each would serve for 3 or 4 months then hand off to the next in line.

Over her years of service to the Democratic Party, Betty has befriended many members of California's Democratic political elite. She worked to elect Bob Leggett to Congress who served from 1963 to 1978 and then for Congressman Vic Fazio who served from 1979 to 1999. She is a long-time friend and supporter for former state Insurance Commissioner, former Lieutenant Governor, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior and current Congressman John Garamendi, for former state Treasurer and gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides, and for former Assembly Majority Floor Leader John Hannigan. As anybody who knows Betty knows, *everybody* knows Betty!

Betty minded the Democratic Club's till for 22 years as treasurer (surely a record), and, for all those years, her smiling face greeted you at the welcome table for club events.

Bill Weir's academic career took him and Betty away from Davis and politics several times, for a year to the University of Western Australia, for two years to the National University of Chile in Santiago and for several months at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

Betty Weir has lived a long and active and very interesting life, and after over 60 years of service to our club, she still happily proclaims “I love the Democratic Party!” And Betty, we Davis Democrats love you!

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Calendar of Events

Tues., June 5, 7:00-9:00pm, regular DDC Board business meeting. Club members and the public are welcome: Pres. Sen and Secretary Yamagata draft the agenda, Davis Library on 14th St..

Sun. June 24, 11:00-2:00 pm, Champagne Brunch. Hosted by Mary Serra at her home 26240 County Rd. 97 (this located on Rd. 97 between Russell and Anderson about one mile west of town) Local elected leaders featuring Congressman John Garamendi who, subject to availability, is expected. Board Members donate buffet brunch items, but you are also welcome to contribute a favorite dish.

Weds. Noon to 8:00, July 4th in Community Park, come VOLUNTEER for an hour or two: The Club will greet the public, distribute information, register voters and sell both beer and campaign paraphernalia. Contact Carl, <cwschmid@comcast.net>.

Future Club Financial Reporting by Carl Schmid

As reported in the April Newsletter, the Club stated its intention to seek professional guidance to ensure that future financial transactions and reports are in compliance with the State Fair Political Practices Commission and Federal Election Commission requirements. Mr. Greg Sanborn of the Diablo Group, which specializes in financial reporting for political organizations, explained the intricacies of compliance to FPPC and FEC regulations to the rapt attention of the DDC Board at its April Meeting. Without attempting to review the many, insightful points that Mr. Sanborn made suffice it to know that the rules are, in fact, simply arcane and the distinction between acceptable and unacceptable practices under these regulations defies simple logic, common sense or even good intentions. Acting on a motion by Bill Ritter, the Board unanimously agreed to enter into a contract with Mr. Sanborn, who will serve as Assistant Treasurer. (The Club is indebted to Bill for his leadership in the selection process leading to this decision.)

Lydia Blais, our newly elected Treasurer, is working with both Mr. Sanborn and Betty Weir, our Treasurer *emrita*, to ensure a smooth transition in our book-keeping. Lydia welcomes the assistance of members who wish to help in this essential work. In particular, we must establish a spread sheet to track the accumulated contributions of each individual Club member. Those of you that are computer savvy could provide crucial expertise in setting up this new system.

Do You Enjoy Pouring Beer? by Carl Schmid

Join us to learn the answer to this question by celebrating July 4th at Community Park! The Club frequently asks for volunteers, and you are understandably skeptical of committing your time. July 4th presents a neat opportunity for you to help Democrats while having fun. Last year, the Club won the coveted beer concession for the festivities; this is a great fundraiser for local Democratic action and an opportunity to greet the public and spread the word for the upcoming November election. Depending upon your preference, you might register voters, distribute information, sell great t-shirts or pour cold beer on a hot day in Davis. If you wish to help, contact Carl (cwschmid@comcast.net) or Rick (gonzales_rick@sbcglobal.net).

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SPONSOR (\$100)

Delaine Eastin
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 Greenberg
 Sue Greenwald &
 Mike Syvanen
 Pat EF & Paul
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 Jerry & Teresa Kaneko
 Barry Melton &
 Barbara Langer
 Gene & Carol
 Livingston
 Grant & Grace Noda
 Demosthene & Alice
 Pappagianis
 Bill Ritter
 Mary Serra
 Warren Taylor
 Captane & Helen
 Thomson
 Rick Vulliet
 Betty Weir
 Kathleen Williams-
 Fossdahl
 Barry Wilson
 Mariko Yamada &
 Janlee Wong

Come on Davis Democrats, VOLUNTEER! By Tim Fenton

Kevin Wolf is Volunteer Committee Chair for Congressman John Garamendi's campaign to be re-elected in the redistricted 3rd Congressional District that now includes Yolo County. He brings leadership experience from many past united Democratic campaigns, and he urges you to help with grassroots campaigning for the June 5 primary and local municipal elections.

Not only will your efforts help in the June election, but they will also help build the team and tools needed to win the many critical campaigns that we face on the November 6 election ballot (e.g. President Obama, Senator Feinstein, tax increases for our schools and more).

Wolf says volunteers are being recruited and trained now: There are several ways to help:

- Calling Democratic voters to encourage them and others in their household to vote. ("*Is Voting Contagious? Evidence from Two Field Experiments.*" See <http://gotv.research.yale.edu/?q=node/46>).
- Helping with weekly phone banks from Democratic headquarters. ("*Volunteer Phone Calls Can Increase Turnout*" See <http://gotv.research.yale.edu/?q=node/21>).
- If you prefer to do your campaigning in the great outdoors you can serve in the door-to-door canvassing effort or table at the Farmers Market and events like the Davis 4th of July celebration and the Yolo County Fair.

Help Democrat Art Pimentel win the county supervisor seat against Republican incumbent Duane Chamberlain. Walk and register voters in the Latino and low voter precincts and help the Garamendi campaign at the same time on Saturday morning, May 18. Contact Kevin Wolf – 758-4211 (Note: "Overall, results from Michelson's field experiments demonstrate that door-to-door canvassing is effective in mobilizing Latino voters and is a cost effective mechanism for substantially increasing turnout in these communities." From <http://gotv.research.yale.edu/?q=node/64>)

The campaign also needs volunteers to serve as precinct captains and team leaders for the get-out-the-vote efforts on the weekend before and/or June 5.

Wolf provides documented research to back up the claim that "in a well run campaign, an hour of talking to voters produces an additional vote for a candidate...one he or she would not get otherwise" and "recruiting volunteers multiplies the return on volunteer time accordingly."

You can contact Kevin at 530-758-4211 or at kevinjwolf@gmail.com. Or, visit the Democratic headquarters at Fifth Street at Spafford Drive in east Davis. Office hours are Monday to Friday noon to 8 p.m., and Sundays 4 to 8 p.m. Campaign leaders are available at the headquarter every Monday evening at 6:30 to brief and train new volunteers. If you want to serve as a leader in the campaign, come to the coordinating meeting on Tuesday nights at 6:30. Volunteer hours are flexible, and even if you can only give an hour here and there, please raise your hand.

PASSPORT (\$50)

Amir Alsawaf
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 Barbara Slemmons
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 Sokolow
 Norma Turner
 Janelleyn & Terry
 Whittier
 Betty & Jim Woo



Kevin Wolf

Democratic Newsletter

**Annual Champagne
Brunch
with Congressman
Garamendi
11:00 am,
Sunday, June 24**

Davis Democratic Club
P.O. Box 73014
Davis CA, 95617
Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO 59

PLEASE RENEW your
MEMBERSHIP

Do you have a **RED DOT**
attached to your newsletter?
If so, please pay your Club dues.

See the website photo
gallery:

www.davisdemocraticclub.org

To JOIN or RENEW (circle one) membership in the Davis Democratic Club, fill out this form and send a check to the following address: Davis Democratic Club, P.O. Box 73014, Davis, CA 95617

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation & Employer (required by FPPC)

Are you interested in? (circle all that apply.)

Campaign Activities Fundraising Voter Registration

Telephoning Newsletter

Circle your Level of Membership:

Individual \$15 Household \$25 Passport \$50
Sponsor \$100 Patron \$200 Benefactor \$200+
Student membership \$10



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