

March, 2018

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Love your Electeds                                       | 1   |
| Calendar/ Report from Jesse Salinas, Yolo Reg. of Voters | 2   |
| Candidate Statements                                     | 3&4 |
| In Remembrance   | 5   |



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## LOVE YOUR ELECTEDS



Contrary to widespread cynicism about “politicians” and their motives, we are extremely well served by many dedicated citizens, who take upon themselves the responsibility of public office. The annual DDC “Love your Electeds” expresses our appreciation of their service and also for the willingness of others to step forward as candidates for elected office. The large attendance at this year’s event demonstrate that many share these sentiments.

**Eleni Kounalaki**, a candidate for **Lt. Gov** who was raised in Sacramento, was the featured speaker. Universal health care and the affordability of higher education are among her top priorities. **Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry** reported that 14 of her bills were signed into law, an outstanding success for her first year in office. Migrant housing and early childhood education are included among her greatest current concerns. **Supervisors Jim Provenza and Don Saylor** also highlighted the importance preschool education; the Board of Supervisors will request a tax increase to fund this effort. **Jesse Salinas, the County Clerk and election official**, is working with older students teaching them the importance of voting and encouraging them to become engaged at an early age (see p. 2). In addition to describing initiatives for clean energy, **City Council Members Brett Lee and Lucas Frerichs** were especially proud of the collegiality of the present city council which enable them to consider difficult choices in an entirely constructive manner. **DJSB Member Tom Adams** personalized the current controversy over DACA by describing the traumatization of deported children.



Candidates for the Yolo District Attorney (Dean Johansen) and the Davis City Council also introduced themselves to the gathering. Your Club has not endorsed any candidate for local office knowing that this decision is best left to you. However, as a continuing, informational service to the DDC Membership

and as a courtesy to the candidates for their service, the Newsletter is publishing campaign statements by Democratic candidates for local elected offices (p. 3 & 4).



# Democratic News

Page 2

## Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

**Tues., Mar. 6, 7:00-9:00 pm., Election of DDC Board Officers**, General Membership Meeting followed by Board Meeting, Blanchard Room, Davis Library. All DDC Members are eligible to attend to nominate candidates and to vote. Food will be provided. Immediately following the election, the Board will hold its regularly scheduled monthly business meeting.

### *Involving Young Voters in the Civic Process* by Jesse Salinas



It is coming up on election season again and I am honored to be involved in so many aspects of the County's voting processes. As **Yolo's County Clerk**, an office that includes the role of **Recorder and Assessor as well as Registrar of Voters**, my election office is responsible for voter registration, voting materials production and mailing; voting access at polling places and vote-by-mail drop-off points; and all other elements associated with running our elections.

One aspect of elections that is dearest to my heart is voter education. Educating citizens about voting rights applies to all ages and to all citizens, whether they are of voting age, and whether they are fluent in English, Spanish, Chinese, or another language. Last year, Yolo County received statewide and national recognition for improving the accessibility of voting materials for non-English speaking voters.

Of significant importance is what we have achieved with educating youth on all matters relating to the right to vote. To encourage familiarity with the election process, we developed an outreach model we tested at Esparto High School. As part of this model, during the 2017 non-election year, we ran the high school's student body election. We designed the ballot to look like an official ballot. We asked students to sign to receive a ballot and had them cast completed ballots into an official ballot box. Our office conducted an official count. While on campus, we helped register eligible students. For seniors who did not vote due to pending graduation, we demonstrated how we adjudicate ballots should ballot questions arise. This outreach pilot was so successful, Assemblywoman Aguiar-Curry is considering legislation to expand the model to all high schools in the county.

The election office is taking the lead in sponsoring a Youth Empowerment Summit for 100 high school students throughout the county. This year's summit will be on March 24 at Woodland Community College. The event will be free to all participating high school students. What happens at a youth empowerment event? We teach leadership and civic engagement skills, emphasizing the importance of public speaking so that youth learn how to confidently address elected officials on matters they care about. In addition to introducing the option of becoming a poll worker, we register all students eligible to vote. We pre-register all 16- and 17-year old citizens in accordance with State law. The summit offers students the chance to talk in a friendly setting with local elected officials, so they can gain knowledge of how local public decision-making occurs.

At the college level, we developed a U.C. Davis student outreach and voter education training model that is being expanded to Woodland Community College. In communities throughout the county, we have been training volunteers in voter registration procedures and encouraging voter registration drives among previously unserved populations. Educated voters are those who examine issues and candidates and who feel comfortable with the public election process. I am confident our voter engagement efforts will have a long-lasting impact.

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 Cont'd. P.3

*Ed. Note* **The Choice is Yours!** Davis is fortunate to have many able citizens running for City Council. Given this richness of talent, the Club does not presume to endorse any candidate. However, to assist you in your decisions, the Newsletter is publishing statements by the Democratic candidates (see Jan. and Feb. Newsletters). Prior to the election, the Newsletter will republish these statements in a compendium to provide you with a side-by-side comparison. Statements by **Eric Gudz (p.3)** and **Ezra Beeman (p. 4)** are featured in this Newsletter edition.



## **Eric Gudz:**

Raised in Eagan, Minnesota, values of community, public service, and environmental protection were instilled in me early on, from becoming an Eagle Scout in my teens, to pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Michigan as a young adult. Within these settings, I cultivated a keen understanding of service as well as a love and respect for nature and community, both of which guide me to this day.

My dedication to public service extended into adulthood, when I took an oath of office in the U.S. Army, becoming a 2nd Lieutenant with the 101st Airborne Division and deployed to combat operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2010. My experiences in Afghanistan, and the successful work I completed there, further solidified my passion for local planning and community building.

Since arriving in Davis in 2013 to pursue a master's degree at UC Davis, I have co-founded a chapter of the global nonprofit organization Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) and now serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the entire SSDP network. In June

2016, I completed a Masters in Science in Transportation, Technology, and Policy at UC Davis, with my work published in peer-reviewed research journals.

In my years living and working in Davis, I have developed a deep fondness for this community, as well as an admiration for our community-wide commitment to sustainability and inclusivity. And while it's true that many Davisites have come to enjoy a high quality of life, many of us are also struggling to find affordable housing, to earn a living wage, and to feel a sense of belonging within our community. We must address the following issues:

### **Housing and Economic Development**

We must do more locally to meet the affordable housing needs of our growing community and provide better options to residents of all backgrounds. The needs of renters, which make up more than half of Davis residents, must be prioritized and addressed. Our new growth must remain community-driven, and we must continue to invest in our neighborhoods, parks, and roads.

### **21st Century Transportation and Environmental Policy**

We need to update our infrastructure using innovative, cost-saving measures and continue leading the world by pioneering enhanced safety for our community's bikeways. We must reaffirm our community commitment to public transportation and take bolder steps towards the protection of our environment, including a renewed local commitment to a carbon-free future by 2050.

### **Community Oversight and Resources**

We must work with our entire community to build and institutionalize robust, independent oversight of our community's policing. We need to develop community spaces for our most underserved and establish community broadband to give our students, businesses, and consumers the tools to excel in an increasingly digital world.

Even with its challenges, Davis is a beautiful and rewarding place to live and work, and I want to preserve and build upon our community's greatness for generations to come. I believe in "A Seat for Everyone," that Davisites of all ages, races, genders, and classes should not only have their voice heard but listened to. Join the movement today at [gudz4davis.org](http://gudz4davis.org)!

## Ezra Beeman:



The Democratic Party is the party of the people. I am the candidate for the people of Davis.

I am the son of Susan Pelican and Howard Beeman. Howard was a local organic farmer who ran for congress as the Democratic candidate for the 3rd Congressional District in 2002. Susan was a long-time midwife at the Davis Community Clinic.

My vision for Davis is one that will improve the quality of life and the cost of living for all of Davis's citizens. I will restore Davis Pride. Having grown up in Davis, born to a family with its roots in organic farming, I know what Davis was and what it can be.

How can I achieve this? I will:

- **Work with UCD to achieve at least 50% housing of students on campus.** Others have tried this, of course, but I will show the campus why it is beneficial for the campus, the City, and *for students* for them to do so. As a consultant, I know how to work with people and how to find win-win solutions.
- **Control costs and taxes by improving the efficiency of City services.** Having run three successful startups and managed a large state-owned organization, I know what it takes to run an organization efficiently. And with degrees in economics and finance, I know how the numbers work.
- **Cultivate world-class, environmentally-friendly infrastructure.** My vision is 100% renewable energy from Davis and nearby rooftops (providing local jobs and revenues), transportation that takes advantage of automation and ride sharing and promotes bicycling, and high speed, fiber-optic internet access. My background in the energy and electric vehicle sectors, and experience as an IT Director, perfectly position me to carry out these ventures.
- **Foster affordable-by-design housing.** Davis cannot grow its way out of its problems without losing what makes it special, but it can ensure a fair share of housing across the Davis community by changing developer incentives. As someone who was a renter for most of his adult life and who has a young family, I understand the need to provide a variety of housing types and see this as something that will foster Davis's diversity and strength.
- **Revitalize the Downtown.** A program of regular, community-friendly events, investing in expert advice to identify the future of retail in an Amazon world and promoting this vision to potential entrepreneurs and customers, addressing behavioral issues with fairness, respect and compassion –are just some of the ideas that I have for moving the Downtown forward while retaining its small-town charm.

The Davis that I grew up in was a world leader in housing, transportation, energy, the environment, and social justice. But the world has largely caught up to us. The community is experiencing acute pressure from UCD's growth, an aging population and budget challenges, all of which threaten our way of life. The solutions require strong vision, management and integrity. I believe my background, capabilities and priorities make me the best choice for the Davis City Council. Additional information is on the website <[www.beemanforcouncil.org](http://www.beemanforcouncil.org)>.

**“HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PRESIDENT”**



The February DDC Board Meeting concluded with a well-deserved celebration of DDC President Stephen Souza’s birthday. Being Club President is a major time commitment, which Steve approaches with joyful, enthusiasm. Steve also served as Club President many years ago giving Davis Democrats added reasons to thank him for continually advancing progressive ideals within our community. Please join us in wishing Steve a Happy Birthday, Mr. President.”



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*Continued from p2*

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- John Mott-Smith
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- Marv Tripp
- Rick Vuillet

**IN REMEMBRANCE:** We are truly saddened to report the passing of a staunch Democrat and active, long-time Club Member, **Corrine Cook**. During a recent election, a poll worker noticed Corinne proudly wearing her Davis Democratic Club T-shirt, which displays a picture of Pres. Obama. Considering the T-shirt to be campaign material, the poll worker denied Corinne permission to enter the polling place. Corrine considered to her T-shirt to be clothing. Insisting upon her rights, this dignified, elderly citizen proceeded to stage a “mini-sit-in” (along with her oxygen bottle) while waiting for the County Clerk to drive from Woodland and render an official decision on her Tt-shirt. Corrine prevailed in her right to vote.

- Marty West
- Lois & Bruce Wolk
- Richard & Jane Ziegler

**PASSPORT (\$50)**

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- Peter Adolay
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Democratic Newsletter

Champagne Brunch  
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