

# THE NEW DEMOCRAT

A Publication of the Peninsula Democratic Coalition (PDC)

January 2012



## Mark Your Calendar

### **PDC LUNCHEON**

**Day:** Saturday, January 28

**Time:** Doors open at 11:30, lunch at noon

**Place:** Mings Restaurant

1700 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto

Luncheon with former Wisconsin Senator Russ

Feingold, a true progressive leader. **(See below.)**

### **PDC ANNUAL MEETING**

**Day:** Saturday, February 25

**Time:** 12 Noon-2 p.m.

**Place:** Los Altos Youth Center

1 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

**(See article at the right for more information.)**

## Russ Feingold to Address PDC at January luncheon

A progressive stalwart, former U.S. Senator Russell Feingold, will be the featured speaker at the PDC luncheon on January 28. He represented Wisconsin for 18 years in the U.S. Senate, was a member of the Wisconsin state senate for 10 years, and is currently a visiting professor at Marquette University Law School.

Feingold is spending the winter quarter at Stanford as the first Mimi and Peter E. Haas Distinguished Visitor at the Haas Center for Public Service. In that capacity, he is leading a weekly seminar, mentoring students, and exchanging ideas with faculty, and giving public lectures. He also will deliver two major public lectures at Stanford in February (<http://m.stanford.edu/events/e/?i=30275>).

According to the Stanford website, Feingold has expressed particular interest in pursuing the question of how the nation confronts its national security challenges and hopes to engage the university community in addressing the “disturbing expansion of corporate influence on our political process.”

These two interests—national security and corporate influence on politics—are not unrelated. Decades ago, President Eisenhower warned about the dangers of a growing military-industrial complex. During the past decade we have seen a growing military-industrial-political-lobbying complex,

(Continued on page 3)

## Save the Date: Saturday, February 25: PDC Annual Meeting

**Featuring A Debate Between Sally Lieber and Jerry Hill, the Election of New Officers, Hear About Our New 2012 Headquarters, And a By-Law Addition**  
**Time: 11:30 Doors Open, Lunch at 12 Noon**  
**Where: the Los Altos Youth Center (Behind City Hall, 1 N. San Antonio Road)**

The PDC Annual Meeting on Saturday Feb.25th will be filled with excitement beyond the always delicious, free luncheon for PDC members (non-members pay only \$5) served by the PDC Board. We are very pleased that we will be featuring a debate between our two Democratic candidates for Joe Simitian's State Senate seat: Sally Lieber (Past Assembly Member from the Mt. View area who also served as CA State Speaker Pro Temp) and Jerry Hill, the present San Mateo Assemblyman (who is the present head of the Democratic State Assembly Caucus). This friendly debate between two exceptional Democratic State Senate candidates makes us all proud to be members of the Democratic Party.

Prior to the Debate between Jerry Hill and Sally Lieber, we will have the election of our new PDC Officers and Other Board Members by our members. We will also ask for a minor By-Law addition of one sentence to complete the San Mateo County chartering requirements for the PDC. This By-Law addition will enable us to apply to become a chartered club in San Mateo County as well as Santa Clara County. That sentence will read: “The PDC is located primarily in the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo.” This addition has already been approved by the PDC Board. Now it goes to the general membership.

The New Officers who will lead the PDC in this critical Election Year are as follows:

**President:** Marc Berman

**Vice-President:** Kate Forrest

**Secretary:** Carol Kuiper

**Treasurer:** Joe Rolfe

**New Board Members** joining the Board in 2012 are as follows:

Laura Casas-Frier, Karen Fox, and Kavita Tankha

**Returning Board Members** are as follows (in alphabetical order):

Hayes Alexander, Larry Aronson, Marie Chadderdon, Andrea Eaton, Nicole Fernandez, Rita Friedman, Stephanie

(Continued on page 3)



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Diane Rolfe*

# Regaining Greatness By Investing in Education

As we start off the New Year of 2012, I find our nation at the crossroads of history. What path will we choose as a people in this important election year? Is America a democracy run by the people, for the people, or is America a democracy manipulated and controlled by money. How Americans respond to that question will be determined by whether Americans elect Democrats across the nation, including Barack Obama as President, or will they we select Republicans? Another way to state the question of national and state direction is: Will we support our children and their future by investing in education and our nation or will America be lulled by the false Republican repetitious refrain of : "Our nation has no money; we are bankrupt. Taxes should not be raised on anyone especially corporations because these 'job creators' are taxed enough already." Such Republican rhetoric is hateful and selfish, and displays a utter disregard and disrespect for our young citizens and their right to a hopeful and positive future through a quality, affordable, and accessible 21st century education.

American wealth has doubled since 1980 but this has not reduced demands for budget cuts by Republicans. This constant refrain and demands for cuts threatens our status of being a impressive world power by accelerating the decline of America's educational system. What made America and California a prosperous and vigorous society was that we had the most educated people in the world. Our K-12 public education and our historically great colleges were the beacon of hope for the rest of the world. California led the way.

That has now changed. Excerpts from the SF Chronicle on November 17, 2011 contained the following headlines: "Budget Outlook Growing Weaker---\$3.7 Billion State Shortfall Means Severe Cuts Likely," "Violent Clash as Trustees Raise Tuition 9% at CSU," and "Demonstrators from UC Rush the Financial Bank of America Branch." None of this needs to happen, except for the ideological insanity of the Republicans with their belief in not taxing the wealthy nor the powerful. Governor Jerry Brown was shocked by the Republicans intransigence denying voters even the right to vote on whether to continue last year's flow of revenues. Since Californians need a 2/3's majority vote to raise revenues, the Republicans with barely 1/3 of the vote run the show in Sacramento

courtesy of Proposition 13. Meanwhile, the majority of citizens and our representatives in the State Legislature watch California and its once superior educational system collapse.

Back to the Republican refrain that we are overtaxed. Are we? According to Mark Paul, author of "California Crackup" and past deputy treasurer of California, in his article "Education Cuts Shortchange the Future of All Californians," (June 5, 2011, San Francisco Chronicle and SF Gate.com) , he points out that we have cut taxes significantly in the last 30 years. He explains that today the top personal income tax rate is lower than when Ronald Reagan was governor. The corporate tax has been cut and the code turned into a "Swiss cheese of credits and exemptions" so that many of our largest corporations and banks pay no taxes. The estate tax has been abolished. Proposition 13 cut and capped property tax rates and limited reassessments. The vehicle license fee has been halved." Conclusion: We have an unfair taxation system that under taxes the wealthy, the large corporations, and the banks. As Paul points emphasizes: "It was the California Idea of creating a public higher-education system balancing broad access, affordability and quality, that created wealth and knowledge unequaled on the planet. It is the foundation of our economy that is now being dismantled before our eyes." Mark Paul concludes with: "When speaking about California's broken system of government, college students have been quickest to see the stakes. They live with the vandalism that theirs will be the first California generation less well-educated, and therefore poorer, than the last."

Is hope on the way? There are at least 5 initiatives being prepared to the November, 2012 Ballot to raise money for education. One initiative is Governor Brown's proposal that would raise \$7 billion by increasing the state sales tax by a half a cent as well as raising the marginal tax rate on those making over \$250,000. The money raised will go to K-14 education, public safety, and social services and corrections. The typical taxpayer couple making \$65,000 would pay \$123.

However, there are two others that look most hopeful as well. The Millionaire Tax of 2012 would raise \$6 billion (no expiration) by raising the state income tax by 3% on income between \$1 - 2 million; raises rates by 5% on income over \$2 million. The annual cost to a "typical taxpayer" would be \$ 0.

Then there is another proposition: Proposition 1522: Tax Oil to Fund Education Initiative" that will raise \$3 - \$4 billion. One should know that we are the only state that does not have an Oil Extraction Tax, and that it costs California at least \$3 billion a year in lost revenue as a result. In contrast, Texas has a 10% oil extraction tax while Alaska has a 25% tax on oil profits.

These five initiatives show that many individuals and organizations are organizing to raise additional money to fund education. People are being reminded that economic prosperity and citizen well-being go hand-in-hand. We must fund our students' right to a quality education that is accessible to all so that we remain a nation of opportunity. Democratic elected officials will champion this cause, not the Republicans. This is another reason to be active and involved in the 2012 Election for the outcome will determine which path America walks down.



## Martin's EDITORIAL

California should do away with the death penalty. There are numerous reasons. Pick which logic is most compelling for you – when you seek to convince others, pick the logic most likely to change minds. These reasons are not contradictory, they are complementary.

The death penalty is wrong. If human life is valued it should not be taken except under the most dire circumstances. Killing a person who is incarcerated and thus no danger to anyone clearly does not fit that criteria.

Most of the countries of the world with stable governments came to that conclusion long ago; most states of the United States have eliminated the death penalty either explicitly with changes in their laws or implicitly through custom. Does California really want to stand with Texas on this issue?

Our justice system is not perfect; thus it happens that innocent people do get convicted of crimes. When an innocent person is jailed there is some opportunity to atone for the error; when an innocent person is executed there is no chance. The most recent public statement on the subject was from the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court who said that while she was sworn to support the law, she was compelled to point out that the system was broken when it came to trials involving the death penalty.

For those who may think the death penalty is a deterrent to crime cite the experience of the English who used to hang pickpockets; it was discovered that the most likely time to have your pocket picked was when you were watching a pickpocket being hung. (There should be a tongue twister in that story!)

For those who feel that the Biblical quote “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” justifies taking the life of a convicted murderer, consider the passage “vengeance is mine saith the Lord;” or the commandment “Thou shalt not kill.”

Then there is the cost. Trials that involve the death penalty cost millions of dollars more than non-capital punishment trials. Once someone is convicted, incarceration on death row costs many times more for one year than incarceration in the general prison population for several years. A recent report indicates that commuting the death sentences would save California over \$180 million per year! (San Jose Mercury News, 6/20/11.) Eliminating the death penalty will not solve California’s budget problems – but it would be a step in the right direction.

For those who feel that abolishing the death penalty would be considered being “soft on crime” there are at least two salient responses: serving a life term in a California prison without possibility of parole is certainly not a “soft” punishment; and some of the money saved by eliminating the death penalty could be well used for crime prevention and for additional law enforcement personnel.

The legislature can, and should, fix the problem. It is clear that they will not. The ACLU is circulating petitions for a measure to go on the ballot. Legislating by initiative is a poor way to run the state – but there seems to be little choice.

*Martin Gorfinkel*

## PDC meeting (continued from page 1)

Grossman, Danielle Cullinane James, Kristen Lohnes-Johnson, Jon Kessler, Amy Pearl, Diane Rolfe, Mark Solomon, and Emy and Jim Thurber.

We want to thank Chris Balme, Lynne Isaacs, and Elizabeth Lasensky for their excellent service to the PDC Board. We are sorry that personal circumstances cause them to leave the Board in 2012, but all of them will remain active Democrats in this critical Democratic Election year.

Devoted Democrats setting up our North Santa Clara County/South San Mateo County Headquarters will also be present. They will be there to answer questions, gather names of volunteers, and you can purchase Obama Bumper Stickers and Buttons and other SWAG from them as well. All proceeds help to fund our 2012 Headquarters.

## Feingold (Continued from page 1)

with diminishing ability of ordinary American citizens to influence our government.

During his time in the U.S. Senate, Feingold’s primary legislative interests ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russ\\_Feingold](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russ_Feingold)) were campaign finance reform, fair trade policies, healthcare reform, conservation and environmental protection, a multilateral foreign policy, Social Security, and elimination of pork barrel spending and “corporate welfare”. He also was a staunch supporter of civil liberties. Feingold is perhaps best known for his work with Senator John McCain on the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bipartisan\\_Campaign\\_Reform\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bipartisan_Campaign_Reform_Act)), widely known as the McCain-Feingold Act, which took almost seven years to pass.

After leaving the Senate at the end of 2010, Feingold founded and now heads a new 501c4 (nonprofit education & lobbying) organization, Progressives United (<http://www.progressivesunited.org/home>). Its stated mission is: “To stand up to the exploding corporate influence in our political system by organizing and amplifying the voices of those who believe that corporations have too much power, and by promoting solutions that ensure individual rights and democratic principles are upheld to the highest standards, even in the face of the lawless *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision.” Progressives United’s companion political action committee (PAC), which raises money for progressive candidates, emphasizes transparency in the fundraising process and limits donation size to no more than \$10,000 per individual donor.

Feingold’s forthcoming book, *While America Sleeps: A Wake-Up Call for the Post-9/11 Era*, examines “what America has done wrong domestically and abroad since the terrorist attacks of September 11, and what steps must be taken to ensure that the next ten years are focused on the international problems that threaten America and its citizens.”

The PDC luncheon will be held at Ming’s Restaurant, 1700 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, on Saturday, January 28, 2012, from 12-2 p.m. Make reservations early—we expect a large turnout! **Reservations required: call Andrea at (650) 941-2120 or leave message with name(s) or email her at [californiaandrea@comcast.net](mailto:californiaandrea@comcast.net)**

## Lawsuit Targets Prop 13

Proposition 13, a ballot initiative that amended the California constitution, has had a devastating effect on the state's financing. In addition to decreasing property taxes, Prop. 13 also contained language requiring a two-thirds majority in both legislative houses for future increases of any state tax rates or amounts of revenue collected, including income tax rates. It also requires a two-thirds vote majority in local elections for local governments wishing to increase special taxes

[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California\\_Proposition\\_13\\_\(1978\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_13_(1978))].

Further, Prop. 13 not only restrained property tax increases, but also ended up redistributing the tax burden in favor of businesses; over time, a steadily increasing fraction of property taxes has been paid by homeowners compared to businesses.

The result of the "2/3 rule" has been to make opponents of any budget or tax increases more powerful than proponents of tax increases, as only a 1/3 + 1 vote in either house of the legislature is required to block an increase. As a result, a supermajority is required in order to carry out these fundamental aspects of governance.

Because the U. S. Supreme Court, in *Nordlinger v. Hahn*, upheld the initiative soon after it was passed in 1978, claiming Prop. 13 was unconstitutional has seemed hopeless. Multiple subsequent efforts to overturn Prop. 13 though ballot initiatives have failed, most recently in the 2010 election cycle.

However, William Norris, a retired U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judge, and Charles Young, former chancellor of UCLA and a long-time opponent of Prop. 13, believe they have a new basis for contesting its constitutionality. They have filed a lawsuit in a state appeals court in Los Angeles claiming that Prop. 13 is in fact unconstitutional based on a recent decision of the California Supreme Court. They contend that the court's May 2009 ruling on same-sex marriage [Proposition 8] defined the limits on voters' power to amend the California Constitution by initiative, and showed that a change as far-reaching as the two-thirds requirement exceeds those limits.

According to San Francisco Chronicle reporter Bob Egelko [<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/12/28/BAC11MHEBD.DTL>]:

*Gay-rights advocates used a similar argument to try to overturn Proposition 8, the 2008 initiative that outlawed same-sex marriage in California. They said it altered the state's constitutional system in a different way - not by increasing any voting requirements, but by using the initiative process to attack the concept of equality.*

*Such a change, Prop. 8's opponents claimed, amounted to a "revision" of the state Constitution, and not merely an amendment. Constitutional revisions can be placed on the ballot only by the Legislature or a constitutional convention, while amendments can be circulated as initiatives.*

*The state Supreme Court disagreed. In a 6-1 ruling, then-Chief Justice Ronald George said Prop. 8 was not a constitutional revision because it did not "make a far-reaching change in the fundamental governmental structure or the foundational power of its branches."*

*That's just what Prop. 13 did, by eliminating majority rule for tax increases and making it virtually impossible for a divided Legislature to raise money for everyday programs, argued Norris.... "The [Prop. 13] requirement "upsets the*

*bedrock principle of lawmaking by majority rule upon which the California Constitution was founded,' ... Norris said in papers filed with a state appeals court in Los Angeles. That change 'restructured California's basic governmental plan by granting a minority in either house of the Legislature a veto over the majority's exercise of the core legislative power to raise revenue by taxation.'*

*He noted that [Justice] George said in a speech later in 2009 that Prop. 13's two-thirds vote requirement has played a key role in making California's government "dysfunctional."*

*If the suit succeeds, it would restore majority-vote legislative approval for state tax increases - while leaving Prop. 13's property tax reductions intact. It would also change the balance of power in Sacramento, where minority Republicans routinely unite to prevent any increased levies.*

The opening brief in the suit was filed in December. Prop 13's chief proponents, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association [[www.hjta.org](http://www.hjta.org)], are expected to lead opposition to the lawsuit.

According to reporter Egelko, the case may be argued in the spring of 2012, with a ruling due 90 days thereafter. As of January 1, the state, which was sued in the persons of clerical officials in the Assembly and Senate, had not yet taken a position on the validity of Prop. 13.

*Katherine Forest*

## Election Community Outreach

The Santa Clara County's Citizen's Advisory Commission on Election's subcommittee on community outreach is holding a community meeting 6:00 pm, Tuesday, January 17. The county's new Registrar of Voters, Barry Garner, will attend and briefly speak. Also invited are representatives from the four organizations that received grants from the county to do election outreach to underrepresented communities. The grants are to educate communities generally about voting and election procedures, particularly with regard to the new "top two" primary system. The meeting will be held in Room 157 at the county building at 70 W. Hedding, San Jose. The public is welcome, particularly those reaching out to underrepresented communities.



# TAKE ACTION TODAY to pass CA Health Care Reform

By Carol Kuiper

*“Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and the most inhumane.”*

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

SB 810, California’s Universal Health Care Act, to guarantee affordable, high-quality health care while containing costs needs your calls and letters of support NOW!

The crux of the matter is whether the Senate Appropriations Committee will place SB 810 on suspense, where it will die, or whether the bill will be taken off suspense and passed by the committee. The strength of our statewide lobbying campaign is vital to gaining support from Senate President pro Tem, Darrell Steinberg, to have SB 810 moved through the Appropriations Committee to a vote on the Senate floor.

To keep Single Payer hopes alive in this session, the CA Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Christine Kehoe needs your calls and letters TODAY urging her YES vote, co-authorship and leadership to pass SB 810 out of committee on January 17 and on to the Senate for passage before the end of January. Also make calls to the Senate President Pro-Tem, Darrell Steinberg, who is also on the Senate Appropriations Committee and is wavering. Contact Senate Majority Leader Ellen M. Corbett—SB 810 co-author—thanking her for her support and encouraging her to lead the fight to pass SB 810 this month when it reaches the Senate floor.

Senator Christine Kehoe, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee • State Capitol, Room 5050 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • FAX: (916)327-2188 • Phone: (916) 651-4039; Senate President Pro-Tem, Darrell Steinberg • State Capitol, Room 205 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • Fax: 916 323-2263 • Phone: (916) 651-4006;

Senate Majority Leader Ellen M. Corbett, State Capitol, Room 313 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • Fax: 916 327-2433 • Phone: (916) 651-4010.

Talking points:

1. California can do better!!

Current health care costs negatively impact California’s economy and state budget, limiting access and quality for Californians, while rapidly increasing costs for employers and families. The U.S. spends over \$2.5 trillion (17.6% of GDP) on health care—twice that of other wealthy nations—insurance premiums annually grow 4 times faster than wages and our health care system ranks a dismal 37th worldwide according to World Health Organization figures.

2. SB 810 (Leno) offers a solution to health care costs and declining quality with a “Medicare—for-All”, single-payer health care reform plan combining public financing with competitive private health care delivery. It provides

- Truly universal Health Care: Everyone IN; NO ONE out.
- Affordable Coverage with NO NEW SPENDING. The plan is paid for from federal, state and county monies currently spent on health care, with premiums based on a percentage of income (for families) or payroll (for employers) that eliminates

current premiums, deductibles and co-pays.

- Savings for State and Local Budgets. SB 810 SAVES school districts, counties and the state millions each year, freeing dollars for educations, roads and other essential services.

- Freedom to choose your health care providers.
- Fair Reimbursements using actuarially-based pay for doctors, nurses, hospitals and other health care providers, hospitals. This means no more uncompensated care.

- Cost containment through efficiency and reduction of administrative waste, insurer overhead and profits and overpriced pharmaceuticals. California is projected to save \$20 billion in reduced administrative costs in the first year of SB 810 enactment alone, according to the 2006 Lewin Report on SB 921.

- SB 810 provides comprehensive benefits. NO MORE GAPS in coverage.

- SB 810 is Constitutionally sound.

- Under Sec. 1332 of the federal health reform act (PPACA), states are allowed to enact a single payer system like SB 810 if it is demonstrated to cover more people with comparable coverage a lower costs.

- SB 810 is a key part of California’s economic recovery and deficit reduction, while providing all Californians the health care coverage they need and the peace of mind they deserve.

For more information, contact Sara Rogers at Senator Mark Leno’s office, (916) 651-4003 or sara.rogers@sen.ca.gov.

## Urgent: Support Pro-Choice

On Monday, January 23rd, all across the country, people will rally to support Roe v. Wade and that powerful decision which gave all American women control over their reproductive rights. There is now a political onslaught on this historic decision, led by some members of the Republican Party, and there may even be efforts to reduce access to simple contraception to prevent pregnancy. So it is especially important this year to show strong support for a woman’s right to make her own choices.

In Los Altos, there will be a Pro-choice Rally and Walk around town beginning at 11:45 on Monday the 23rd. Former State Senator Liz Figueroa, a dynamic speaker who is now working with Planned Parenthood, will address the walkers before they start their march down State and Main Streets. The Rally and Walk will be over by 1:15. The Rally will be held at the Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road, just in back of City Hall. There will be a \$2 charge at the door to help pay for the room rental.

The Rally and Walk are sponsored by the Los Altos/Mountain View Chapter of AAUW. It began as a response to anti-choice walkers who also march downtown on this historic day. Please plan to join your fellow citizens to show your support for basic human rights for American women and invite friends and neighbors to come along too. There is almost always television coverage of this Rally and Walk and it’s important to demonstrate that supporters of Roe v. Wade are large in number and willing to literally “take to the streets” in support of that decision. Call Myra Orta at 650-968-8476 if you have questions.

Emy Thurber



## Funnies by Janice

All these candidates, Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry, Herman Cain....who said God told them to run. Is it possible that God just really wants to make sure Barack Obama gets re-elected?

-

John McCain attacked Newt Gingrich for his recent attack on Romney – “I don’t think it’s appropriate to call your opponent a liar.” Actually, both McCain and Gingrich should be experts on the subject of lying – or does “Honey, I’ve been working late, I’ll be right home” not count?

-

No argument here with Senator John McCain, who made this statement (no joke) at a rally tonight for Mitt Romney. “I am confident, with the leadership and the backing of the American people, President Obama will turn this country around.”

-

Michele Bachmann ended her campaign for President. Not sure who is more upset, her hundreds of hard-core supporters, or the nation’s comedy writers.

-

Although Michele Bachman dropped out of the GOP presidential race, she also said “There are many more chapters to be written.” You know what that means.... yet another failed-candidate book deal.

-

Iowa caucuses are not a punch a ballot kind of thing. You have to go in, listen to speeches, talk to people, etc. It can take hours. Yet 58 people in the Iowa caucuses voted for Herman Cain. Did they think they were getting a free pizza or something?

-

The Boston Globe endorsed Jon Huntsman for the GOP Presidential nomination. Wonder if they would have endorsed the man Mitt Romney was as Governor of Massachusetts.

-

Despite the results in Iowa, Rick Perry is moving ahead to South Carolina. Should we be shocked? We all know how good the Texas Governor is at math. - Michele Bachmann said her husband Marcus spent the last day of the campaign in Iowa “buying doggie sunglasses for our dog Boomer.” Can’t imagine how those gay rumors got started.

-

Rick Santorum is now calling Mitt Romney a “bland, boring career politician.” Not true, Mitt hasn’t been in office since 2006. He’s more of a “bland, boring career candidate.”

-

Barack Obama sidestepped the Senate confirmation process by using a recess appointment to make Richard Cordray the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. And the GOP is angry. Very angry. Gosh, does that mean Republicans in Congress might start not working with the President?

-

Newt Gingrich blamed his fall in the Iowa polls on being “Romney-boated.” After blaming his failure to get enough signatures to be on the Virginia ballot on a staffer’s fraud. If this GOP nomination thing doesn’t work out, Gingrich has a great chance of being hired to lobby for the California Wine Industry.

-

Newt Gingrich said Mitt Romney would buy the presidency if he could. And Mitt allegedly tried to bet him \$10,000 that wasn’t true.

-

Mitt Romney compared President Obama to Marie Antoinette as a way to say the President is out of touch with everyday Americans. Really? Mitt Romney saying Obama is out of touch is like Herman Cain saying Bill Clinton is a lousy husband.

*Janice Hough, PDC Member*



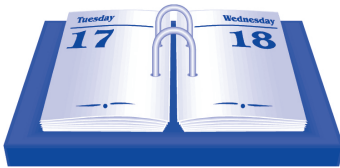




The Peninsula Democratic Coalition  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

#### **Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee**

meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at 70 West Hedding, San Jose. Call 408/445-9500 for information. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**The PDC Board of Directors** meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second **WEDNESDAY** of each month at the Palo Alto Unitarian Church, 505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto, Fireside Room (in October), otherwise Room 8; all are welcome.

### EVENTS: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

#### **PDC Luncheon w/ former Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold**

Saturday, January 28 - Noon  
Ming's Restaurant, 1700 Embarcadero, Palo Alto  
See January 2012 newsletter for more information.

#### **PDC Annual Membership Meeting**

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 2-4pm  
Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd, Palo Alto  
See page 1 for more information.

For additional democratic events, visit the Santa Clara County Democratic Party's website: <http://sccdp.org/hcalendar/events/>



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[www.cdc-ca.org](http://www.cdc-ca.org)

The Peninsula Young Democrats (PYD) is a group within the PDC for members under age 36; the PYD is affiliated with the California Young Democrats.