

March Meeting
Monday, March 28
San Jose City Council District 6
Candidates and Endorsements

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Ave, San Jose
Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM

SCCDC endorses Kalra for Assembly

by Shirley Odou, Editor

Three of the six candidates in the hunt for SCCDC's endorsement, Ash Kalra, Madison Nguyen, and Esau Herrera, spoke at the February meeting, each contending that background and personal experience had prepared them to take on the challenges facing California if elected to represent the 24th District in the Assembly, a seat presently held by Nora Campos who is termed out this year. After the candidates' had made their presentations and answered questions from the audience, the membership voted on which candidate would get its sup-

port. When the votes were counted in a process that allowed members to vote for more than one candidate, Ash Kalra received the requisite two-thirds for the endorsement. He garnered 79%, Madison 60%, and Esau 29% of the ballots cast, perhaps not a horse race but an indication that all three are highly regarded as well-qualified Assembly candidates by SCCDC members. *(continued on page 5)*



Ash Kalra

Candidates for San Jose City Council District 6 seek Club endorsement

According to the *San Jose Mercury*, San Jose City Council District 6, covering Willow Glen, Buena Vista and Fruitdale neighborhoods, is one of the most "highly-sought" of San Jose City Council seats. Currently held by Pierluigi Oliverio who is termed out this year, six candidates have entered the race to replace him, all of whom will be seeking SCCDC's endorsement at the March 28th meeting.

The candidates are (in alphabetical order): Peter Allen, the owner of a PR consulting firm, and nonprofit manager of Teatro Vision; Helen Chapman, community leader and former Parks Commissioner chairwoman; Erik Fong, Tech manager and creator of Kartma, a food cart business employing homeless people; Norm Kline, founder of his own software company, LibraryWorld, Inc. and former Mayor of Saratoga; Ruben Navarro, 16 year Tech Industry employee and graduate of Santa Clara University; and Chris Roth, President of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association and Chair of the San Jose Library and Early Education Commission. (You can learn more about the candidates' background on Page 3 of this newsletter).

To receive SCCDC's endorsement, a candidate or candidates will need two-thirds of the votes cast by members present at the meeting. Members can vote by secret ballot for as many candidates as they choose on the first ballot. See page 6 for instructions for voting; they will also be available at the meeting.

The meeting will be held in the banquet room at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue in San Jose. It will begin at 7 PM, following a no-host dinner at 6 PM. Endorsement voting will begin at approximately 8:15 PM. A short business meeting will conclude the evening's agenda. For more information, contact Endorsement Committee Co-Chair Tom Pyke at pykelaw@pacbell.net.

Compromise on business tax proposal

by Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton

(Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton presented a proposal to raise the business-tax in the City of San Jose at SCCDC's February meeting, seeking the Club's support. While other major cities across the State like San Francisco have increased business taxes recently, San Jose's had remained stagnant at \$150 per business since the 1980s. The proposal based the increase on gross receipts of \$1 million and more by businesses and companies, in addition to number of employees. Small businesses with five employees or fewer would be exempt from the increase. SCCDC members voted unanimously to endorse Dr. Lipton's proposal. The following article from Dr. Lipton describes what happened when he appeared before the San Jose City Council, asking it to adopt

the measure. Shirley Odou, Editor)

Last week, our campaign agreed to a compromise proposal from Mayor Licarrdo to modernize the business tax. The new business tax will double the current business tax (i.e., it will add an additional \$12.7 million annually) for the city with a COLA pegged at the CPI, it will protect small businesses and the South Bay Labor Council and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. This deal will also avoid a costly and contentious fight at the ballot.

Thank you so much for the support of the Santa Clara County Democratic Club. With your support, and the city study which showed that a gross receipts tax would not have any impact on 88% of the businesses, it was possible to win this victory for our community.

The Democratic Voice
Published by Santa Clara
County Democratic Club
Monthly, ten times a year

Submissions due first
Monday of each month
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Profile: Rob Means

by Shirley Odou, Editor

Bakersfield, the eighth most conservative city in the United States and the most conservative in California, seems an unlikely childhood home for nurturing self-proclaimed flaming liberal SCCDC President Rob Means who once embraced Green Party ideology and remains tenacious in his support of a myriad of progressive causes. For the past two years, the new President has been serving as SCCDC's Vice-President and chair of the Club's MoveToAmend committee.

Born in Los Angeles, Rob was two years old when his family relocated to Bakersfield where his father was employed by Southern California Gas Company, earning a "good enough living to send his three children to Catholic schools," according to Rob. Rob graduated from Jesuit-run Garces Memorial High School learning the value of intellectual inquiry and "open-mindedness" that he credits, in part, for influencing his willingness to explore new approaches to old problems. After finishing high school, he attended the local community college, then completed his formal education in 1971 at the University of California in Irvine where he received a degree in Computer Science.

For most of the next twenty years, Rob was employed in the high-tech industry as a computer programmer focused on computer-to-computer communications, a forerunner of the Internet. His first job out of college with Tymeshare was such an unsatisfactory experience that he quit, and went to work for Four-Phase. He took "his first sabbatical in 1976," rebuilt his VW and was off with his family to King Salmon (near Eureka) to work with a friend in a small business, applying plastic coating to burl wood used in furniture-making. Beyond the freedom he found in his new, but short-lived occupation, his eyes were opened to the dangers of nuclear power. The Hum-

bolt Nuclear Power Plant, one of the oldest in the United States located a half-mile from King Salmon, was closed shortly before Rob moved there, but was still a safety hazard for residents, some of whom had tumors and small blisters, including his daughter, from the effects of radiation escaping from the shuttered plant. It would be a lesson learned that would lead to his being a firm proponent of "green energy" as the only environmentally-safe source of electricity. No less fortuitous for Rob at this time was a casual acquaintance with his next-door neighbor, Carol, his future wife.

After a year in King Salmon, pragmatism prevailed, and Rob returned to Four-Phase. An ever-longer commute from Milpitas to Cupertino led to his taking a position with CDC which was closer to his home. With a change in the corporate culture at CDC, he moved on to Amdahl, continuing his work as a computer programmer. As he noted in his Smart Voter biography in 2012 when he ran for Mayor of Milpitas "Near the end of that career (computer programming) I kept getting the message that to be most effective in solving the big problems, I needed to connect with my community. I had been living in the same Milpitas house since 1977, but barely knew my neighbors. So with some money in the bank, I left corporate America and plugged into the Milpitas community." Although unsuccessful in his two bids for City Council in 2010 and 2014, and the Mayor's contest in 2012, pitted against well-funded conservative Mayor Esteves, the only other candidate in the race, his efforts on behalf of the community have brought positive change to the City. As an active board member of the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association (SNA) for 18 years, he played a significant role in getting the Hetch-Hetchy linear park developed from Town Center to the City limits. In his ten years on the Bicycle Transportation Advisory Commission,

along with many other accomplishments, he was responsible for initiating the planning and construction of creekside trails in Milpitas.

Innovative modes of transportation which would reduce carbon emissions have long been a priority for Rob, a legislative adviser to Advanced Transit Association. One of the most promising, Rob contends, is Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), the topic of his presentation to SCCDC in June 2012, a system he described as a "clean, quiet, automated non-stop service available 24 hours a day, electrically-powered with vehicles that range in size and speed. Currently, he is advocating for PRT as an alternative to the extension of Bart to Milpitas.

While he has distinguished himself as a progressive thinker and doer, not only by his involvement with community-oriented projects but also in his support of causes like the Hunger Project, Beyond War, and Oxfam, Rob has eschewed partisan politics until recently. A Democrat, he had briefly flirted with joining the Green Party in the 1990s when the Democratic Party adopted a centrist path that he felt no longer represented his views. Realizing that working within the Party to alter its centrist trajectory to reflect a more liberal approach to solving the nation's problems would be more productive in bringing about the changes he sought, Rob has become an active Democrat, participating in Central Committee meetings, California Democratic Party events, and campaigning for progressive Democratic candidates.

In 1996, post his career as a computer *(continued on page 5)*



**SCCDC President
Rob Means**

Candidates for San Jose City Council District 6

(Candidates submitted the following brief bios and platform statements for The Democratic Voice. There have been a few editorial changes to accommodate the SCCDC newsletter, Shirley Odou, Editor).

Peter Allen is a third-generation San Jose native with deep roots in the community. Peter's great grandfather co-founded Contadina Canneries. His grandfather owned Allen's Furniture, and his family operated Paolo's Restaurant, both longtime fixtures in Downtown San Jose. His mother, Janice, taught at Willow Glen Elementary for almost 20 years, and his father, Jack, is a local CPA.



For the past three years, Peter has worked as managing director of Teatro Visión, a Chicano theater company nurturing arts and opportunity in underserved San Jose communities. He also owns a consulting practice specializing in online marketing and political campaigns. He currently serves as Chair of the San Jose Arts Commission.

Peter graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Southern California. His fiancée, Angelica Ramos, works for a nonprofit agency serving homeless youth in Santa Clara County. Learn more at peterforsanjose.com

Helen Chapman is a community leader with over 25 years of experience working for District 6 and San Jose. Helen has served as a Parks Commissioner, Shasta/Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association Board Director, Liaison to the Alameda Business Association, and in other leadership roles while raising her two sons with her husband. From creating and expanding park space to building community centers, she has worked with state representatives, city officials, and neighbors alike to create positive change. Helen says she is "willing to listen, bring people together, and build consensus to get things done." She promises to take a community-first approach to local government to ensure that it works for residents and local business owners. Her endorsements include the South Bay Labor Council, Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager, former District 6 Councilmember Nancy Ianni, and many others.



Learn more about her background and platform at helenchapman2016.com

Erik Fong began pursuing public service after cancer took his dad's life and left the family in debt. Erik's mom struggled to get on her feet while working multiple minimum wage jobs. From this experience, Erik learned that local government *can* improve its services and increase opportunities for hardworking residents.



Erik is committed to ensuring government works for everyone. With over ten years of private-sector management experience in the tech industry, he helped create Kartma, a downtown San Jose coffee cart that employs men and women transitioning out of homelessness.

Erik offers his tech, business, and personal experience as an appropriate background for creating opportunities for all residents and bridge San Jose's diverse communities with City Hall. He says his focus as councilman will be on rapid constituent services for high quality of life, increasing public safety, alleviating traffic, addressing homelessness and housing costs, and training a homegrown workforce. Erik and his wife Shannon, live in Willow Glen. Learn more at erikfong.com

Norm Kline was born and raised in San Jose. His mom, a waitress, died of Lou Gehrig's Disease when he was 9. His dad, a janitor, became disabled. The family was homeless for short periods. Norm attended local schools, graduating from San Jose High with honors. He received scholarships and grants to attend Santa Clara University where he met his wife, Allison. They have been married over 35 years and have two grown sons, John and Will.



After graduation from SCU, Norm followed a technology career, working at Lockheed and Apple. He left Apple in 1991 and created his own software company, LibraryWorld, Inc., which is still going strong today.

Norm is deeply involved in the community, currently serving on many boards and commissions dealing with a wide range of issues from government ethics to land use and transportation. He has been on the Santa Clara and San Jose Planning Com-

missions and Mayor of Saratoga. Learn more at democracy.com/normkline

Ruben Navarro says, "I am running for City Council because my roots and devotion in this district go back 38 years and run deep in many neighborhoods." He and his wife have three children who they are raising in the very neighborhood in which they grew up. They are active parishioners of Saint Leo the Great Church, volunteer to organize Turkey Drives during the holidays, and coach for the San Jose Police Activities League. Ruben credits his immigrant parents for his work ethic. "They showed me that I can accomplish anything if I put in the hard work." including graduating from Santa Clara University, and pursuing a career in the tech industry. He says "I plan to utilize my education and my 16 years of experience in the tech industry to address the challenges San Jose is now experiencing. I will empower all neighborhoods and small businesses by working together on responsible economic development, affordable housing, and public safety." Learn more at ruben4council2016.nationbuilder.com



Chris Roth is, in his words, "passionate about serving our community, and wants to take that to City Hall." As Chair of the San Jose Library and Early Education Commission, he has worked for long-term funding to restore library hours to 6 days/week. As President of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association and South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition volunteer, he has worked to improve traffic safety and clean our creeks.



Chris is raising his 5-year-old daughter here and his family has thrived here. Now, he says, he is ready to do more to make San Jose even better. In City Hall, his priorities would be rebuilding our police department and working for "a budget that balances the needs of job creation with the needs of our community."

Chris has been endorsed by Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, former San Jose Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen, California Board of Equalization Chairwoman Fiona Ma, and hundreds of his neighbors. Learn more at chrisrothsj.com

Nervous over November

by Herb Engstrom, SCCDC Member

So, read the front page headline in the *Mercury New* on Sunday, February 28th in its report on the California State Democratic Party convention, which was held in San Jose from Friday, February 26th through Sunday the 28th. You've heard the common editorial policy of the TV news described succinctly as "If it bleeds, it leads," ensuring that the leading story will concern murders, auto accidents, bombings, mass shootings, earthquakes, or other such life-costing tragedies. Well, the *Mercury's* lead story that Sunday might similarly be characterized as "Only mention any contention." The article devoted many of its column inches to reports of arguments, insults, and verbal altercations with comments like, "It makes me wonder what kind of Democrats these people are." I was there for all three days and can affirm that the Merc gave a highly distorted report of the convention.

I can't claim that no uncivil interchanges took place. I just didn't see any. There were, after all, over 2,100 delegates, and it seemed like up to 1,000 additional staff members, volunteers, observers, guests, and assorted others. With three thousand people crowding the convention center, many of them passionate about supporting their favorite candidates, a few acrimonious squabbles are bound to take place. They just weren't the norm.

So let me give a much broader picture of the convention. Who, for example, were the delegates? They represented a number of different categories. One was elected officials to state and federal offices and the state legislature. Each of these officials can appoint a limited number of additional delegates. Another group was Democrats elected in meetings in each of the 80 Assembly Districts of the state, 6 men and 6 women. The voters in these AD elections can be any person registered as a Democrat and residing in the district.

The convention attends to business of the state Party. For example, the Party has a number of standing committees such as Platform, Rules, Resolutions, and Credentials, which meet at the convention. Then, too, delegates having common interests can and do form caucuses. A few examples are Veterans, Labor, LGBT, Chicano/Latino, Women's, Envi-

ronmental, and Progressive. These meet in several sets of three to eight at a time late Friday and early and late Saturday.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, the "general session" was scheduled to begin. This is the meeting where all delegates, observers, and others are invited to attend to see and hear speeches by state Democratic Party notables. By the way, the Party has a YouTube page on which videos of all convention speeches are posted. You can see any of these including the interesting, thoughtful speech by Joe Biden here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-P_bTbbWkAH88fzk4SuyLfOPGu4Z

gqpw. Among other notable speeches (in my very personal view) were those by Senate Speaker Pro Tem Kevin de León, who is proposing a \$2 billion housing bill for the homeless, by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and State Attorney General Kamala Harris, both of whom are running for Barbara Boxer's Senate seat, and by Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, who is running for Harris's Attorney General seat and who described some interesting proposals for reducing gun violence in California.

Unfortunately, the speeches did not go according to schedule, at least for many of the delegates. Because the Vice President of the U.S. was to speak Saturday, we all had to pass through metal detectors and undergo searches similar to those at airlines. There were only four metal detectors in the convention hall plus another at the entrance from the Hilton Hotel. The lines stretched back maybe 50 yards. One person complained that she was in line for an hour. Many people missed out on the general sessions, both in the morning and the afternoon, when Biden spoke, even though he spoke last.

Of particular interest at the convention were the balloting sessions, which began at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday with the endorsement vote for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Barbara Boxer. There were only two candidates, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and state Attorney General Kamala Harris. Harris won overwhelmingly with over 80% of the votes.

Later in the afternoon ten such votes were held for Assembly District races. Endorsements in these races were made in pre-endorsement caucuses that are open both to delegates from the assembly districts and to a few Club members, one

for every 20 Club members residing in the district. However, challenges to the results of a pre-endorsement caucus can and were made in two of the races in districts in Santa Clara County. In the 24th AD, a seat presently held by Rich Gordon, four candidates were on the ballot: Josh Becker, Mike Kasperzak, Vicki Veenker, and Marc Berman. Berman received the largest number of votes but failed to achieve the 60% required for the Party endorsement. Thus, there was no endorsement in that race.

In the pre-endorsement caucus of the 27th AD, now represented by Nora Campos, six candidates originally ran: Cong Do, Darcie Green, Esau Herrera, Ash Kalra, Madison Nguyen, and Andres Quintero. Kalra was endorsed. However, Quintero successfully challenged the result, and at the convention the Club reps were no longer present, not being delegates. Only four candidates, Do, Green, Kalra, and Quintero, chose to run at the convention. With the new set of voters, Kalra failed to receive the required 60%, so his endorsement was revoked, and there is now no endorsement in that race. Note that Kalra received the endorsement of the Santa Clara County Democratic Club at its February meeting.

The second set of endorsement elections concerned state senate and congressional races. Of interest to us was the election in the 17th Congressional District with candidates incumbent Mike Honda and challenger Ro Khanna. Honda had received the endorsement at the pre-endorsement caucus but was successfully challenged by Khanna. In the convention vote, Honda received over 40 votes, Khanna only 7, and hence Honda remained the state Party endorsed candidate.

At 9 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday and continuing to midnight both days the partying began! Various political groups and candidates reserved rooms in and out of the convention hall for "hospitality suites." Some examples of these groups: the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, the California Teachers Association, Loretta Sanchez for U.S. Senate, the California Medical and Dental Associations, the California Nurses Association, Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones together with several unions, and many more.

Finally Sunday morning saw awards presented to *(continued on page 5)*

(continued on page 5: SCCDC ENDORSES KALRA FOR ASSEMBLY)

Differences on issues were nuanced with the three agreeing on major issues like renewable energy and climate change, increasing the minimum wage to address income inequality, and making college affordable and ultimately tuition-free for state students. On education, Madison is in favor of establishing a new University of California campus in San Jose, Esau favors better pay and training for teachers, and Ash, who has been endorsed by the CTA and AFT said “teachers need our support” and that “demonizing them has to stop.” All supported districts providing affordable housing for teachers.

High speed rail and the Delta Tunnel, both of which are espoused by Governor Brown, the consummate visionary, are areas where Madison diverged from positions taken by her opponents. While expressing concern about the rising costs of high speed rail, Ash and Esau were unequivocal in backing its construction—Ash pointed out that Central Valley would prosper revitalizing an area chronically experiencing high unemployment, and Esau noted high speed rail is a fundamental mode of transportation in Europe and that Bart, once opposed because of its cost, has confounded its critics. Madison, on the other hand, maintained that the money for high speed rail would be better spent on infrastructure such as fixing the streets in cities like San Jose, the worst in

(continued from page 2: PROFILE: ROB MEANS)

programmer, he undertook a new venture. Down to one car, Rob outfitted a bicycle with an electric motor, costing him only \$500 and found, not only was it an efficient environmentally-friendly way to get around “in suburbs like Milpitas,” but in the long run saved him much more money than he invested. This personal experience prompted Rob to start his own business, operated out of his home, selling and servicing electric bikes and scooters. He closed the business officially in 2013.

Like Rob’s professional life, his personal life had a few twists and turns before he entered into a solid relationship that has lasted for thirty years. A youthful union was short-lived; his marriage to his second wife, the mother of his daughter Robin, now 41, ended in divorce after five

(continued from page 4: CDP ENDORSES HONDA AND HARRIS AT CONVENTION) Democratic activists in each of the 20 Party regions, each region consisting of four Assembly Districts. These

the country, according to a recent study.

The other area of dispute, one in which Madison sided with the Governor, was the Delta Twin Tunnels. She saw it as necessary for maintaining agriculture in the Central Valley and Southern California while Ash and Esau look at it as a boondoggle that would damage the ecology in the Delta without “solving the problem.” They favored water conservation measures and “effective recycling” by farming interests to mitigate the water crisis.

Their most enthusiastic response was to the question about their positions on the Disclose Act and MoveToAmend, priority issues for SCCDC. Ash cited his work in behalf of both. “We must get our democracy back,” he said, by getting corporate money out of campaigns. Madison shared Ash’s view and let his words speak for her. Esau was particularly bothered by the Supreme Court’s decision in the Citizens United case, granting the same rights to corporations as people. “It was wrong.” As far as his stand on the Disclose Act, he was emphatic, “You need to know who is paying for campaigns.”

In their opening and closing statements, the candidates stressed their accomplishments and personal histories as measures of their readiness to serve in the Assembly. Madison, a member of SCCDC since the beginning of her political career more than ten years ago, pointed to her own

years. Then in the early 80s, on a summer weekend, when he visited Kelly Park for only the second time in his life, he ran into a mutual friend of his and Carol’s. The friend from out of state visiting her sister in Palo Alto put Rob in touch with Carol whom he had not seen since he left King Salmon. The two worked out an arrangement for Carol to “care for my daughter in exchange for a bedroom in my house.” In time, Rob said, “the relationship took a more intimate turn, leading to our marriage in 1989.” The odds of meeting the mutual friend in Kelly Park were so astronomical, in his estimation, that he was certain, as he relayed to his future wife, it must be a sign that “we were meant to be together.” Rob is very proud of his wife’s accomplishments, including, quilting and gardening, among many others. Professionally, she is an accountant

were followed by Party business: adoption of the Party platform, ratification of the endorsements, and votes on positions of ballot measures.

All in all, it was again a very successful

struggles as a refugee who escaped from war-torn Vietnam in a small fishing boat, eventually settling in the Central Valley where she worked in the fields beside her parents, as giving her the understanding of the struggles of families she would represent. “I understand where they are coming from. I will fight for every opportunity for every Californian as an Assemblywoman.”

Ash said he was “honored to be on the San Jose City Council, to have served as a public defender and an educator. It is heartwarming and overwhelming at times to see the extraordinary support I’ve been getting in this campaign.” He appealed to members “to see me through my actions, through my work in the community and my advocacy,” including joining in protests denouncing the Citizen’s United decision and chairing the committee against the Keystone Pipeline.

Esau, who served 26 years as an elected school board member, is a strong advocate for education and “noted throughout the State for his education policy.” A lawyer, he also puts “safe neighborhoods” at the head of his list of priorities. He said he is “proud to be the son of a World War II veteran who was born in Mexico, proud to be the father of two wonderful teachers, proud to be the brother of a school superintendent and proud to be the brother of a high school principal.”

for the California School Employees Association.

I asked Rob what his goals are as President of SCCDC. He said he would like to see a “wholeness,” in the organization, a concept that he espoused when he helped establish the “Democracy Café,” patterned after the “World Café,” a unique process for sharing ideas. He also wants to emphasize “advocacy and activism” by the Club, particularly this year when there are so many progressive issues in the forefront, like the DiscloseAct, MoveToAmend, and the growing efforts locally and nationally to increase the minimum wage, to name a few. Under Rob’s leadership, the Club is destined in the months ahead to address these issues and others, as it cultivates its progressive roots laid out in the Credo to the SCCDC constitution conceived 35 years ago.

and productive convention thanks in large part to Party Chair John Burton, his staff, and support by the Santa Clara County Democratic Party and its chair, Steve Pre-minger, and many volunteers.

In Memoriam: Ruth Roberts

by Shirley Odou, Editor

Ruth Lindley Roberts, a fifteen-year member of SCCDC, who, accompanied by her husband, Steve, rarely missed a monthly meeting, passed away in her home March 13th from cardiac arrest after a long battle with congestive heart failure. Her "Celebration of Life" service was held on Saturday, March 19th at St. John's Baptist Church in East Palo Alto, the same church where she and Steve were married 59 years ago. A member for many years, she, along with her sisters, sang in the church choir.

Ruth was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on August 16, 1934. She attended a segregated high school in Little Rock, after which she completed two years at a women's college before she, her mother, recently divorced, and her four younger sisters, moved to San Jose. Despite financial difficulties, with the family largely dependent on a younger sister's income as a beautician, Ruth graduated from San Jose State with a BA in English. After she received her secondary teaching credential from SJSU, Ruth did

substitute teaching in several school districts in the area, including Campbell, Sunnyvale, and San Jose Unified. She also was the mother of five children whom she showered with "love and care." She finished her professional career at Pacific Bell, retiring after many years as an operator. Her husband, meanwhile, worked for Hewlett Packard for 43 years in many different positions, including production engineer.

Before moving to Los Gatos, the couple lived in West San Jose a few blocks from SCCDC board member Herb Engstrom, who remembered Ruth as an active stalwart member of the Club. SCCDC member Karen Powers recalled she would often chat with Ruth at meetings about family and politics. At the time of the Katrina disaster in New Orleans, Karen said, Ruth expressed great concern for her grandson who was attending Xavier University in the City. In fact, Steve informed me, he was transferred to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island for six months until the Xavier administration thought it safe for students to return to New Orleans.

President Rob Means and Herb attended the ceremony on Saturday at St. John's Baptist Church, describing the tribute to Ruth as very moving. Steve and the Roberts large extended



Ruth Roberts 1934-2016

family were in attendance, including Ruth's five children, Rochelle, Denise, Stephen Jr., Iris, Techiera and her grandchildren, Durrell, Christopher, Jessica, Ilesha, Michael, and Nicole, her great-granddaughter Kayliann, and her one surviving sister, Irene.

Ruth was a lovely person, devoted to her husband and family. I am glad that she passed my way and I got to know her, not only as a Club member but also as a friend. Speaking in behalf of the membership, we appreciate her work as a phone tree volunteer and the loyalty and support she gave SCCDC over the years. She will be missed.

Volunteer opportunities—SCCDC Needs You!

Events coordinator—With a team already in place and plans for our two upcoming events underway, all the committee lacks is a creative, follow-through individual with experience in coordinating events—could be for political organizations, companies or even, family reunions. The committee already has a co-chair and a team made

up of five dedicated, talented individuals who would help initiate a volunteer willing to take the reins at some point. If you are interested, please call Shirley Odou, co-chair, at 408-247-9513 or e-mail her at lizloyal@aol.com.

Phone tree volunteer—We are experiencing growing pains! As a result, we need two more people to help with the

phone tree. It requires no more than 15 and, at the most, 20 minutes once a month to call members to remind them about the upcoming general meeting. Members get to know and expect calls from their phone tree volunteers who receive their list of who to call from the phone tree chair. If you can give a small amount of your time to do an important job for the Club, please call SCCDC at 408-508-1307.

SCCDC endorsement voting procedures

Voting Rules as determined by the SCCDC Board in May 2014:

Endorsement Votes shall be done by paper ballot that lists all candidates and an option for no endorsement (i.e. none-of-the-above). Votes for "no endorsement" shall be counted when determining the total number of ballots cast. Eligible Club members may vote to approve as many or as few candidates as they wish; or no candidates at all. The Chair shall cast no ballot, reserving his/her vote to break any tie that may occur.

1. **If only one candidate receives votes greater than or equal to 2/3 of the ballots cast**, that candidate shall be

deemed endorsed by the Club and no further votes will be taken.

2. **If two or more candidates receive votes greater than or equal to 2/3 of the ballots cast**, a second hand vote shall be taken to determine if a simple majority of the membership present prefers to endorse all such candidates (i.e. a multiple endorsement) or only the one who received the most votes (i.e. a sole endorsement).

3. **If no candidates receive votes equal to or greater than 2/3 of the ballots cast, but more than one receives a simple majority**, a second hand vote shall be taken to determine if a 2/3 majority of

the membership present wants to endorse all such candidates. **If not, then the original "no endorsement" outcome will stand.**

4. Any tie votes shall be broken by vote of the Chair.

Upcoming Events

March 28—SCCDC General Meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose. Dinner at 6; meeting at 7 PM.

March 17—Clean Money Campaign Meeting, Democratic HQ, 2901 Moorpark Ave, Suite 110, San Jose 7 PM.

March 23—SCCDC E-Board Meeting, Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton, Santa Clara, 7 PM. Coffee and dessert will be served.