



November Meeting
Monday, November 21

SJSU Professors
Garrick and Mary Percival
On Election 2016

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

Early childhood education dividends

by Shirley Odou, Editor

Despite several studies which indicate that early childhood education is a sound investment yielding a 6% to 7% return by reducing unemployment, poverty and crime, SCCDC's November speaker Dr. Lisa Chamberlain said that universal pre-education has not been a high priority in California as it is in some states and many countries around the world. Currently because of budget concerns, Governor Brown and the Legislature earmark limited dollars for education to grades K-12 and community colleges.

An Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Stanford's Children's hospital and a pediatrician whose family practice is located in East Palo Alto, Chamberlain has learned first-hand how important "early childhood education is for poor families with little education themselves." Some children are two years behind before they enter kindergarten, affecting not only their subsequent aca-

demically performance, but also opportunities for employment and success throughout their lives. Over her years as a pediatrician, she has treated children from disadvantaged families from the time they were infants, observing them grow up until they reached 14 and 15 years of age. Some, she said, show promise and stand out, but others struggle to keep up academically and socially



Dr. Lisa Chamberlain

"We know so much more about how the brain develops than we did 20 years ago now that we have MRI, Cat Scans and Pet Scans and are able to understand how much is happening" as children learn, research that validates the value of pre-school education and a stimulating home environment. In comparing school readiness for instance, such as putting *(continued on page 4)*

SCCDC Board elections to be held at November meeting

Elections for SCCDC Officers and Members-Large for the 2017 term will be held at the November meeting. The nominating committee slate recommendations presented at SCCDC's October 17th meeting are as follows: President, Rob Means, Vice-President, Tom Pyke, Treasurer, Bill Barrett, Recording Secretary, Eileen Sargent, Corresponding Secretary, Gwendolyn McDaniel, and Members-at-Large Herb Engstrom, Dixie Johansen, Carol Miller, Shirley Odou, Fred Rehhausser, and Allan Thiessen.

Nominations from the floor for Mem-

bers-at-Large are Ed Cobb, Arthur Cohen, Wallace Gardner, Richard and Kathy Stoken, and David Wessel. (Please note the amendment to Article V, Section 2 appearing above: If adopted all nominees will serve on the Board, including those recommended by the nominating committee, and nominations taken from the floor).

Members of the nominating committee were Dee Alarcon, Joe Alvarado, Eleanor Pedraza, Fred Rehhausser, and Paul Rust. Fred chaired and Dee served in the capacity as co-chair.

What went wrong?

SJSU Professors Garrick and Mary Percival on election 2016

by Shirley Odou, Editor

Like many Democrats, I am still in the state of denial, have not yet found acceptance. Our candidate, Hillary Clinton, won the popular vote, but will not be sworn in on January 20th, 2017 as the 45th president of the United States. How did it all go so wrong, defying prognostications by some of the most respected pollsters in the nation? Was it the Comey effect, as Hillary has said in a letter to some of her key donors? Was it lack of turnout by Democratic voters in the battleground states, or was it, as investigative journalist Greg Palast claimed more than a year ago (reported in the June edition of the *Democratic Voice*), that the "fix was already in and the November election predetermined" in Republican-controlled states, like North Carolina and Ohio where legitimate voters, mostly African-Americans, were being purged from the rolls?

The husband and wife team San Jose State University Political Science Professors Drs. Garrick Percival and Mary Currin-Percival will analyze the outcome of the election from their perspectives at the November 21st meeting. Dr. Mary Percival will focus on the role of the media, public opinion polls, and political participation, her primary areas of research. Dr. Garrick Percival will address voter demographics, and possible effects of voter suppression and crime politics.

Dr. Garrick Percival, Associate Professor of Political Science, and Director of Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement at SJSU, who spoke at the club's June meeting on voter suppression, is the author of *Smart on Crime: The Struggle to Build a Better America*, a comprehensive study of how crime politics has changed in the United States. Articles he has authored have appeared in *(continued on page 2)*

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

Submissions due first
Monday of each month
Shirley Odou
1231 Lafayette St.
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Newsletter Editor: Shirley
Odou, 408-247-9513
Lizloyal@aol.com

Graphic Design:
Karen Powers

Santa Clara County Democratic Club Officers

President, Rob Means

Vice-President,
Dixie Johansen

Treasurer, Bill Barrett

Recording Secretary,
Tom Pyke

Corresponding Secretary,
Gwendolyn McDaniel

Members-at-Large:
Al Alarcon, Joe Alvarado,
David Donaldson, Herb
Engstrom, Dan Hoffman,
Carol Miller, Shirley Odou,
Fred Rehhausser, Eileen
Sargent, Allan Thiessen.

SCCDC Committee Chairs:

Membership:
David Donaldson

Programs: Shirley Odou

Political Advisor:
Loretta Riddle

SCCDC Representative:
Herb Engstrom

Newsletter: Shirley Odou

Public Relations:
David Donaldson

Consortium Representative:
Eileen Sargent

Endorsements:
Fred Rehhausser

Campaign Finance Reform:
Craig Dunkerley

Proposed amendment to the SCCDC Bylaws regarding Members-at-Large

by Shirley Odou, Editor

(At the October meeting, the Eboard voted to recommend the membership adopt the proposed amendment). **Article V, Section 2 shall be amended as follows: The Executive Board (E-Board) shall consist of five of the five officers of Section 1, and up to thirteen (13) members-at-large.**

New people with new skills and ideas are needed for the continued smooth functioning of the club. Members-at-large have traditionally served in dual roles either as chairs of standing committees or taking on other responsibilities such as representative to the Santa Clara County Democratic Party Central Committee and parliamentarian. With the resignations of several members-at-large, we have a need to fill some key positions, including chair and co-chair of the audiovisual and facilities committee and chairs of the membership and public relations committees. We also need an events and fundraising chair and a webmaster. At the October meeting, twelve members, including six incumbents recommended by the nominating committee, and six nominated from the floor, indicated their willingness to serve as members-at-large. By amending the bylaws with regard to the number of members-at-large, as we have done in the past when club membership and needs increase, all, with the approval of the membership, will become part of the Eboard, contributing their skills

and knowledge to make our club more inclusive, as well as more effective. The amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of members present at the November meeting to pass. It will be presented before the election of the Eboard. If it passes, all 13 nominees will join the Eboard as members-at-large.

Historical background of members-at-large

1. Chairs of standing committees are non-voting board members. Several SCCDC members have served on the board as committee chairs for many years, taking on important tasks, such as newsletter editor, voter registration, and parliamentarian as non-voting members of the board.

2. Members-at-large numbers increased throughout the years. The original bylaws called for only one member-at-large. This was true for the club's first 20 years. Then in 2001 with chairs doing most of the work for the club but not having a vote on the Eboard, we amended the bylaws increasing the number of members-at-large to include the then current chairs of committees. As more chairs were added, we continued to increase the number of members-at-large.

3. Larger membership means ratio of number of members to members-at-large increase. According to Bill Barrett, SCCDC treasurer, we have close to 300 members now. When we had fewer than 200 (probably around 150), we had from five to the present ten members-at-large

servng on the Eboard. Using the qualifier (as some organizations do) for determining number of members-at-large on total membership, the club could increase the number of members-at-large to 13 and still have a more favorable ratio than when we had fewer members with 10 members-at-large.

4. Specialized tasks means more responsible people with appropriate skills. The points in 2 and 3 above offer the rationale for increasing the number of members-at-large.

5. Amend the bylaws in November to deal with the present reality. Again, we have amended the bylaws several times, increasing the number of members-at-large so that chairs of committees could have votes on the Eboard. Increasing the number of members-at-large as the Eboard recommends, allows us not only to meet current needs of the club, but also assure that valuable incumbents will not be eliminated from the Eboard. While some of the incumbents may contribute more than others, they are all familiar with our progressive agenda and the goals, assisting in giving direction to the club.

Public relations and membership chair David Donaldson is stepping aside from his positions at this time because of health considerations. On behalf of the club, we thank him for all his contributions, a major reason SCCDC has doubled its membership in the past three years. We wish him well, and are looking forward to his continuing to be a valuable member of the club.

(continued from page 1: **WHAT WENT WRONG?**) many scholarly publications, including *Social Science Quarterly* and the *Policy Studies Journal*. Dr. Mary Percival received her PhD in Political Science at the University of California, Riverside, and has previously held positions as Instructor and Assistant Professor at the

University of Minnesota. She is currently a full-time lecturer in SJSU's Political Science Department, and Research Director of the former Survey and Policy Research Institute. Her work has been published in several journals such as *Political Science and Politics*, *Digital Journalism*, *Public Opinion and Politics*, and *News-*

paper Research Quarterly.

The meeting will be held in the banquet room at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue in San Jose. The program will begin at 7 PM, following a no-host dinner at 6 PM. The business meeting will take place around 8:15 PM. For more information, call Shirley Odou at 408-247-9513.

Statements from members seeking to join Eboard as members-at-large

(Following are statements from twelve members who have indicated their willingness to serve as members-at-large. Six are incumbents who were recommended by the nominating committee and six volunteered (self-nominated) or were nominated from the floor at the October meeting. If the amendment to Article V, Section 2 is passed at the November meeting (see page 2), all will be joining the SCCDC Executive Board in January for the 2017 term with the approval of the membership. Shirley Odou, Editor)

Herb Engstrom (Inc.): I have been a member of SCCDC for 20 years. I am treasurer for the California Democratic Council. I served as SCCDC president for four years and as treasurer for over 15. As treasurer, I established both state and federal PACs for the club, allowing us to become effectively involved in supporting Democratic candidates and measures. Currently I am both webmaster and parliamentarian, duties of which are greatly facilitated by my membership on the Executive Board.

Dixie Johansen (Inc.): I have been a member of SCCDC for over nine years. I served as SCCDC's chair of the fundraising and events committees for several years. I am an elementary teacher and have an official position with the California Teachers Association. Before that, I chaired a committee for the National Education Association. I am dedicated to the Democratic Party and supportive of the progressive agenda of the club. I was a member-at-large on the Executive Board for many years and have been serving as SCCDC's Vice President during the 2016 term. I would like to continue to be part of the Executive Board as a member-at-large.

Carol Miller (Inc.): I have been a life-long Democrat, and a member of SCCDC since 2011. I have served on the phone tree for several years, was on the events committee for four years, and have been a member-at-large on the Eboard for the past three years. I am a retired licensed clinical social worker. I would like to continue to serve on the Eboard.

Shirley Odou (Inc.): I am a founding member of SCCDC, and am currently the editor of the club newsletter, a position I have held for more than 20 years. I also chair the program committee, and was program director for many years prior to my present job as chair. For more than 15 years, I served as corresponding secretary

and chair of the phone tree committee. I also was responsible for all publicity from the club's inception until the mid-1990s. A retired teacher and former owner of a small advertising agency that published a monthly entertainment guide, I have been a political activist dedicated to the Democratic Party and would like to continue to serve as member-at-large.

Frederick Rehhausser (Inc.): I have been a member of the SCCDC for 8 years and a member of the executive board for 4 years. Most recently I have served on the program committee and have been chair of the endorsement committee. Co-chairing with Tom Pyke, SCCDC over the past three years has endorsed candidates in races meaningful to the membership. As a member of the program committee, I have also been helping to put together programs that will appeal to the membership and the wider democratic constituency of Santa Clara County. In part because of these efforts, the membership of the club has doubled over the past couple of years. I want to continue to have the club address the interests of the day in these upcoming turbulent times.

Allan Thiessen (Inc.): I have been serving as a Member-at-Large on SCCDC's executive board for three years. For two successful years I was chair of the events committee for the club. I have been an active member of the SCCDC for over a decade. As a current member-at-large, I have participated in many successful executive board decisions in order to make our club better. I have also been an active member of our local Democratic Party for the past few decades. Go Democrats!

Ed Cobb: I am a current resident of Saratoga, a registered Democrat, and a retired software development executive. I volunteered for Obama's 2008 campaign, registering voters, working phone banks and walking precincts in Nevada. After Obama's election, I helped found West Valley Democratic Club and served as secretary and vice president until it folded in early 2015. I then joined SCCDC and have been working with the public relations committee on our Facebook presence.

Art Cohen: I have been a registered Democrat since my first vote in 1983. I have a technical background and worked for various well-known Silicon Valley companies, including Apple, Oracle and Philips. I founded an audio consumer products company, Aerielle, Inc., in 2004. I also own and operate a movie theater in Cupertino, showing both first and second run films at discount pricing. I am a volunteer board member of the Cupertino Library Founda-

tion programs I am active in local politics, and was a Hillary Clinton delegate. My attendance at the Democratic Convention has further inspired me to get more involved in politics, and joined SCCDC recently.

Wallace S. Gardner: This would be my first position with SCCDC. I registered as a Democrat at age 21. I became dissatisfied with President Clinton and switched parties for one presidency. I don't care for Republican economic and social policies. I consider the Patriot Act, rendition, and a few other things un-American. I became disillusioned with Bush & Cheney and switched back. I favor single payer insurance, affordable housing, a livable wage, quality education for all and, a job for everyone. I have a background in computers and electro-mechanical devices. I am willing to learn.

Kathy Stoken: I've enjoyed being a member of SCCDC. With my past Democratic volunteer history and special skills, I can be a contributing board member. My volunteer history includes: (1) grassroots help in different elections; (2) assisting in former Congressman Pete Stark's office and creating promotional materials; (3) newsletter editor for San Leandro Democratic Club; (4) press/publicity representative for Alameda County supervisor's race. My special skills include writing and publicity. I have a BA in public relations from SJSU (journalism/marketing specialty).

Richard Stoken: I met Kathy in 1973 when she was in a Democratic group called Hayseed in Hayward. At the time they were trying to elect a local Democratic politician, and I joined her. After that we tried to get Tom Hayden elected to the state, but lost that. I quit my job and went back to school, graduating at Chabot College with an AA in Commercial Art. I went to SJSU for my BS in Graphic Design. Kathy supported me all the way and I worked part-time with my GI bill to help make it work. I eventually worked at two companies as a production artist, the last one for 23 years before I got laid off at 60. I am now working part-time for a small screen print company and doing volunteer work with SCCDC. Kathy has been an inspiration to me and here we are.

David Wessel: I am the past president of the Sunnyvale Democratic Club and am on that club's Board. I am a member of the SCCDC. We at the SDC want the two clubs to be closer. I would be the liaison. I protested George Wallace in Appleton when I was 14, and have been involved ever since. I was a Peace Corps volunteer and attended the University of Wisconsin School of Law.

Editorial: The Comey Coup

Why will Hillary Clinton not become the 45th president of the United States? There are many reasons, perhaps but is Comey's interference in the election in effect a coup, creating a hurdle she could not overcome and the deciding factor?

We should have seen it coming when FBI Director James Comey, breaking all guidelines barring FBI officials from using their position to influence an election, an action that may have violated the Hatch Act, according to Senator Harry Reid, released his infamous letter to Republican senators and representatives, stating that he was reopening the investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private server for her emails while she was Secretary of State. In a *Huffington Post* article on November 7, 2016 by Bob Burnett, Berkeley writer and retired Silicon Valley executive, the author pulled no punches: "If Hillary Clinton loses the close election with Donald Trump, the primary reason will be the October 29th announcement by FBI Director James Comey. And acting as a Comey "conduit" from the FBI to the Trump campaign was Rudy Giuliani, former Mayor of New York and U.S. Attorney who had hired Comey as his assistant in his southern district New York office, a position he held for three years.

Talk about letting the cat out of the bag, when he was interviewed by Fox news on October 25th, Giuliani said, "We got a couple of surprises left." The next surprise reported by Trump bullhorn Fox news was from FBI sources that Hillary was about to be indicted in connection with the Clinton Foundation and her service as Secretary of State, the final nail in the coffin. Although the Fox reporter retracted his statement the next day, the damage was already done.

New York Congressman Jerrold Nadler, quoted in a *Washington Times* article November 14, 2016, (Comey's action) "may have very well cost her (Hillary Clinton) the election . . . it was unforgivable as a political intervention by the police into the election and the people in the FBI who were leaking to Giuliani through

former agents . . . that was clearly illegal."

Before the election in an interview with *The New York Times*, Vice President candidate Tim Kaine suggested that there were people within the FBI actively working to try to help the Trump campaign, and, consistent with other reports, alluded to Giuliani's connection with agents in the FBI.

On Saturday, November 12, Hillary Clinton said in a letter to her key donors, as reported in *The New York Times*, that before the bombshell from Comey "We felt so good about where we were," and added, "we just had a real wind at our back." After the Comey letter, the campaign saw support among college-educated white suburban women erode. "We lost with college-educated whites after leading with them all summer," according to Brian Fallon, Clinton spokesperson. "Five more days of reminders about Comey and they gravitated back to Trump," As the *New York Times* article noted, campaigns often look for reasons to explain a loss, but in this case, the reporter admits, Hillary Clinton has the data to back up her claims.

Although we are the majority party, the Republicans have it all—both Houses of Congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court, the state legislatures, and the governorships. With Trump as its candidate, the carnival barker for bigotry in all its forms as its candidate, the GOP was slated for a resounding defeat, not only in the presidential race, but in the down ballot races as well. So what do Republicans do when facing such odds? Do as they always do—CHEAT! But this time the method they chose was one common only in totalitarian states and banana republics: Use the highly respected top law enforcement agency in the country to intervene in the election. That to me ended democracy in this country. I hope I am proved wrong and somehow citizen action will once again right the ship of state. As Michael Moore said, we need to keep the pressure on Democratic senators to filibuster, filibuster, filibuster! Let's remember—when all votes are counted, Hillary will have won the election by more than one million popular votes. Let me have time to grieve before I get back into the fray. (*Shirley Odou, Editor*)

(continued from page 1: **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIVIDENDS**) on their shoes, standing in line, some knowledge of letters and numbers, with children from more affluent Palo Alto, many of whom do have pre-school education, to those from East Palo Alto, the disparity was quite striking: 88% from Palo Alto demonstrated readiness for kindergarten to 28% from East Palo Alto. This imbalance continues throughout the children's school years, evidenced once again when state-mandated reading tests are administered to third graders. Reading proficiency average for the state is 35%; it is 28% from East Palo Alto and 80% for children from Palo Alto. "If you can't read by third grade, you will fall behind in all sorts of things," Chamberlain said.

One of the most comprehensive studies of the

value of pre-school education was done in North Carolina in the 70's in which children from disadvantaged backgrounds were put into two groups, one receiving quality pre-school for two years. "That was the only intervention that was done, and both were then put back in regular school." The researchers followed the children for more than 30 years, all of whom are now in their 40's. "They have had widely different outcomes. The children who did not receive pre-school education were more likely to have arrest records while those in the group with pre-school had more positive outcomes in their lives, such as owning a home, and being employed. "So early investment translates into life's trajectory," Chamberlain noted. "It was a great investment giving the biggest bang for the buck with a more than 15% re-

turn." While providing universal pre-school is expensive, the pay-off is worth the investment, she contended. For disadvantaged children who receive quality early childhood education, according to Chamberlain, it is a 7% to 10% per annum, return because of better outcomes in education costs, social ability, increased economic productivity, and reduced crime. Starting early yields the best results. Indeed, Chamberlain said, "If we don't start early, we don't have much to work with."

Chamberlain concluded her presentation by appealing to members to spread the word about the value of early childhood education and the dividends it yields among friends and acquaintances, other groups, as well as contacting lawmakers at the local and state levels to urge them to address the issue.

Upcoming Events

November 21—SCCDC General Meeting, Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave., San Jose. Dinner at 6; meeting at 7 PM.

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

November 30—SCCDC E-Board Meeting, Headen-Inman House, 1509 Warburton, Santa Clara, 7 PM. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Remember:

RSVP by November 23

SCCDC's Holiday Party

December 3

Fiorillos Restaurant, 6-9 PM