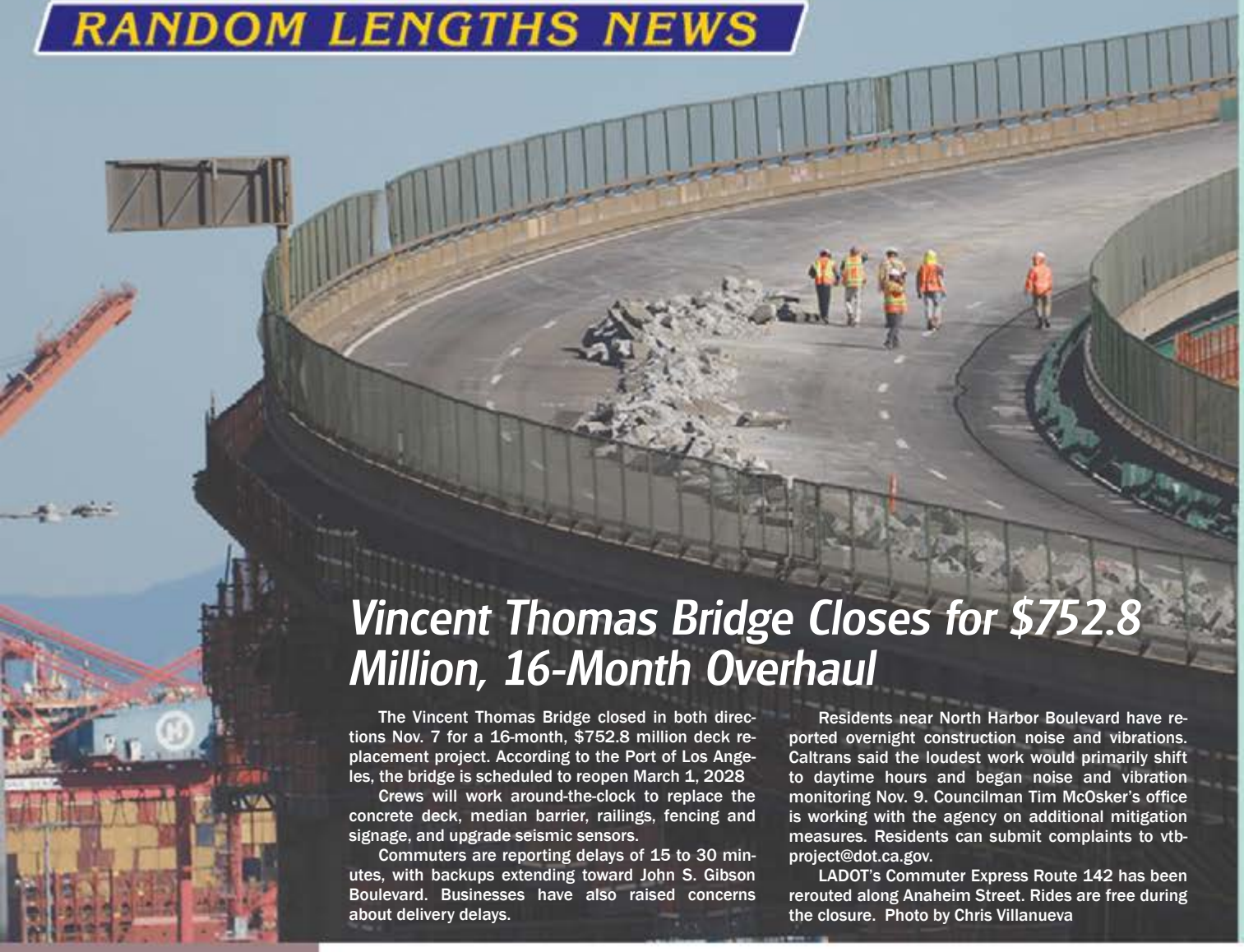
November 12 - 25, 2026 • RandomLengthsNews.com

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RANDOM LENGTHS NEWS

INDEPENDENT AND FREE



Vincent Thomas Bridge Closes for $752.8 Million, 16-Month Overhaul

The Vincent Thomas Bridge closed in both directions Nov. 7 for a 16-month, $752.8 million deck replacement project. According to the Port of Los Angeles, the bridge is scheduled to reopen March 1, 2028

Crews will work around-the-clock to replace the concrete deck, median barrier, railings, fencing and signage, and upgrade seismic sensors.

Commuters are reporting delays of 15 to 30 minutes, with backups extending toward John S. Gibson Boulevard. Businesses have also raised concerns about delivery delays.

Residents near North Harbor Boulevard have reported overnight construction noise and vibrations. Caltrans said the loudest work would primarily shift to daytime hours and began noise and vibration monitoring Nov. 9. Councilman Tim McOsker's office is working with the agency on additional mitigation measures. Residents can submit complaints to vtb-project@dot.ca.gov.

LADOT's Commuter Express Route 142 has been rerouted along Anaheim Street. Rides are free during the closure. Photo by Chris Villanueva

One District, Two Political Realities

San Pedro Breaks With Its Neighbors on Taxes, Voting Rights

By Terelle Jerricks, ***Managing Editor***

Mayor Karen Bass lost the election, but she carried San Pedro, albeit only narrowly. Moreover, the election results reveal a community that stands apart from its neighbors in the 15th Council District on issues like taxing billionaires to shore up cuts made by a White House administration intent on perpetrating a reverse Robinhood on the rest of us, while supporting voter identification requirements and restrictions on future state taxes.

The contrast was particularly pronounced when compared with Wilmington, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway and Watts, where support for progressive ballot measures was generally stronger.

Across the district, voters supported affordable housing bonds, education funding and public investment while rejecting measures that would restrict government revenue and spending flexibility. San Pedro's results suggest a more complicated political landscape, one that does not always align with the broader district's economic priorities.

The 65th Assembly District race was among the few contests that unfolded largely as expected, with Dr. Ayanna Davis defeating perennial candidate Lydia Gutierrez by a landslide.

Statewide Measures — Affordable housing and public investment

Voters in the 15th District supported Measure 1, an $11.25 billion bond for affordable housing, by 67.57%. Support was strongest in Watts (84.85%) and Harbor Gateway (75.88%), compared with 67.73% in Wilmington and 66.77% in

[See **Realities,** p. 4]

POLA Rail Contract Raises Questions of Conflicts, Favoritism and a Flawed Bidding Process p. 2

From Palestine to San Pedro: *Seeds For Liberation* screens at SPIFF p. 9

Miller Butler's Culinary Journey to the Sepulveda Home p. 10

A Shocking Blue Tsunami Reshapes America's Possibilities

By Paul Rosenberg, ***Senior Editor***

Nov. 3 was a tsunami election so big, so deep, and so diverse — the first Black female governor, first female Native American governor, first Muslim U.S. Senator, etc., etc., etc. —that it defies easy characterization. It was obviously a repudiation of Trump and MAGA Republicanism, but also — perhaps less obviously — a repudiation of the status quo politics that Democrats and the media have clung to for far too long, and it saw a resurgence of the inclusive religious left, with a commitment to the social gospel, and caring for "the least of these."

It was, in short, an anti-system election, but with a Bernie Sanders/Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez slant rather than a Donald Trump one. And if

> "And when the state of Georgia becomes blue, along with the state of Texas, they will not be able to hold us down. It's gonna happen."
>
> — Rep. John Lewis, 2018

Democrats remain in denial, and refuse to accept and act on it, then someone like Trump—or even worse—could return again, as Trump did in 2024.

But before considering what lies ahead, let's review some of what just happened.

It was a Democratic landslide:

• It was the largest swing in House seats since 1974—the year after Watergate—and the largest swing along with change in control since 1946, the year after WWII ended.

• Democrats have flipped seven US Senate seats so far, with another certain, and another almost certain to come—for a total of 54, plus two independents who caucus with them. Even winning four seats seemed a long shot, if not impossible a year ago.

• Democrats have flipped five governorships, while holding onto the Kansas governorship for a third term for the first time since 1972. They now hold a majority of governors.

• Democrats won full control of six more states: Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire.

• Democrats have won a majority of state legislative races for the first time since 2008, flipping control of 12 chambers (while Republicans flipped none),

[See **Blue,** p. 15]

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Take LA County's Community Budget Surveys

Los Angeles County is inviting residents to help shape future services and funding priorities through Community Budget Surveys, open through Nov. 15.

Residents can provide input on individual county departments, including the Los Angeles County treasurer and tax collector, by identifying funding priorities, highlighting underserved populations and geographic areas, recommending new programs, and suggesting improvements to existing services. This feedback helps inform departmental budget planning and identify opportunities to better meet community needs.

Participation is encouraged from all residents, including those who have previously accessed county services and those who may be unfamiliar with available programs. No name or email address is required, and responses will be provided directly to participating departments for consideration during budget planning.

Details: Residents can complete the survey at: https://tinyurl.com/LA-budget-survey

Applications Now Open for Poetry Fellowship

Applications are now open for Beyond Baroque's 2027 Linda J. Albertano Poetry Fellowship. Named in honor of the late Linda J. Albertano, a poet and legendary performance artist who worked closely with Beyond Baroque throughout her career.

The fellowship is open to emerging women and non-binary poets who are interested in developing their artistic practice. Offered annually, the fellowship provides $1,000 in Beyond Baroque workshop credits, the opportunity to curate one event with a programs budget, and a paid opportunity to facilitate Beyond Baroque's historic Wednesday Night Poetry Workshop. Applications are being accepted until Jan. 30, 2027.

[continued on following page]

$10 Million Gives Cabrillo Aquatic Center a New Lease on Life

By Devonte Barr, *Columnist*

SAN PEDRO — On Monday, Nov. 9, Assemblymember Mike Gipson took the podium at Cabrillo Beach with $5 million in good news for the long-idled Cabrillo Beach Aquatic Center.

Combined with another $5 million commitment from the Port of Los Angeles, the investment brings total funding to roughly $10 million, advancing plans to restore the waterfront facility ahead of the 2028 Olympic Games while expanding future recreational and educational opportunities for harbor families.

Although an opening date has yet to be announced, officials emphasized that the facility's greatest value would come after the Games, when the waterfront property is expected to return to broader community use.

Los Angeles City Councilman Tim McOsker praised Gipson and state Sen. Laura Richardson for securing the funding despite California's difficult budget conditions.

"Mike made that commitment, but truly, it's a tough budget, a really, really tough state budget," McOsker said, recalling an excited phone call from Gipson after the appropriation cleared Sacramento. "He said, 'We got it. We made it through.'"

McOsker, who recalled the property's earlier development during his time working at the port, described the project as a matter of geographic fairness.



Assemblyman Mike Gipson, Boys & Girls Clubs CEO Peter Settelmayer, Harbor Commissioner Yolanda De La Torre and Councilman Tim McOsker celebrate a $10 million investment to restore the waterfront aquatic center. Photo by Devonte Barr

"This is truly an equity project," he said, emphasizing the responsibility of public officials to leave something valuable for future generations.

Yolanda De La Torre, vice president of the Los Angeles Harbor Commission, said the improvements would prepare the center to accommodate Olympic sailors and international training teams. Earlier this year, more than 400 sailors from 47 countries, including over 70 Olympians, participated in two weeks of Olympic-class racing along the LA Waterfront.

"For me, what's more exciting is what happens after the Games," De La Torre said. "These improvements and the legacy of the Olympic

[See **Aquatic,** p. 5]

Port Shortline Contract Continues an Ancient Battle

Big Rail vs The People of Los Angeles

By Paul Rosenberg, *Senior Editor*

The Port of Los Angeles was founded to be publicly owned, not dominated by Big Rail — to wit the Southern Pacific Railroad, which a century later, in 1996, was gobbled up by Union Pacific (UP). A year before that, the Harbor Commission concluded that the port needed an independent, neutral, third-party operator to run the rail lines serving the port, because of chronic operational problems due to Big Rail's competing interests, and their misalignment with customer interests as well. Since 1998, Pacific Harbor Line (PHL) has fulfilled that role, earning broad support from business, labor, environmental and community groups, all of whom have supported its continued stewardship.

But in June 2022, the two remaining Big Rail companies, UP and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF), approached port staff with a framework proposal to allow them to replace PHL with their joint subsidiary, Alameda Belt Line (ABL), which they claimed could do a better job... according to their own criteria, that is.

According to PHL, this began a multi-phase process by which the rail companies improperly shaped and influenced the request for proposal (RFP) process to ensure it would result in ABL's selection:

> *Central features of that framework later appeared in the RFP, including express eligibility for a company jointly owned by both Class I carriers, a contract term extending more than two decades, and a maintenance structure giving those carriers approval and reimbursement authority over expenses incurred by their affiliate. ABL also communicated with Port personnel concerning technical aspects of the contemplated solicitation before the RFP was released.*

POLA declined to dispute PHL's detailed charges when asked by *Random Lengths News*.

The initial proposal was followed up with a lobbying campaign that intensified in 2024, and reached a crescendo in early 2025, after several Harbor Commissioners expressed support for extending PHL's contract. On Jan. 27, 2025, BNSF sent a letter to the commission lobbying to end PHL's contract, and a month later, on Feb. 27, UP alleged a dramatic failure rate by PHL during a commission meeting. PHL rebutted those claims in a March 12 response, but at the same time UP went to court, seeking to force the RFP process. Rather than fight it, the city agreed, and the RFP was issued on May 19.

PHL submitted its proposal on July 28 with support from a wide range of labor, business, governmental and community stakeholders

- The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, representing PHL's workers, wrote "in full, unequivocal support," and were backed up by all three ILWU locals.
- The South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce wrote "in strong support" of PHL, as did both the San Pedro and Long Beach Chambers.
- After citing PHL's specific pollution-reduction commitments, Coalition for Clean Air President Joe Lyou concluded, "CCA supports awarding the short-haul contract to the company that commits to the greatest and most timely reductions in diesel exhaust emissions. We believe that PHL is that company."
- State legislators Mike Gipson and Laura Richardson also wrote in support, as did Supervisor Janice Hahn. "PHL has consistently shown a willingness to invest in both infrastructure and technology," Hahn wrote, "These efforts reduce emissions, improve efficiency, and support the broader environmental goals of both the Port of Los Angeles and the County. PHL has also demonstrated an exemplary commitment to labor and workforce stability. ... Their continued presence would ensure institutional knowledge, operational continuity, and responsiveness that is difficult to replace."

None of that mattered to port staff, however. On Feb. 3, 2026, PHL learned that its bid had not been accepted. Efforts to understand why proved fruitless in one regard, but not in another: PHL uncovered a number of conflicts which it claims should never have been allowed, as well as deficiencies in ABL's winning bid. And after the bid was accepted, the contract developed had more problems as well.

When port staff presented the contract for POLA's board to consider on Oct. 8, PHL submitted a protest letter laying out a broad range of irregularities in the process, which were almost entirely ignored as the board quickly voted to approve the contract, while Commissioner William Lee's motion to delay action until they had time to digest PHL's protest died for lack of a second.

Since the contract has gone to City Council, with a hearing in the Trade, Transportation and Travel Committee scheduled for Nov. 13, *Random Lengths* sought to get some sort of response to PHL's protest letter. The port simply referred us to its public statements — almost none of which were made after receipt of the letter.

The major broad questions that went unanswered were:

1. Given that the ports decided an independent operator was necessary in the 1990s, why was this decision reversed without an open deliberative public process? Why were the reasons involved not open to public comment and debate?

2. PHL charges (with specifics listed below) that UP & BNSF shaped the RFP process so that it favored ABL. How does the port respond to (a)

[See **PHL,** p. 5]

[from previous page]

Details: https://tinyurl.com/Beyond-Baroque-fellowship . To apply: https://tinyurl.com/poetry-fellowship-application

Prepare Your Property Ahead of Severe El Niño Storms

Get your home ready before the rain. Clear drains and gutters, secure outdoor items, check weakened trees, and move valuables to higher ground. **Details:** Find more tips at: https://tinyurl.com/ready-lacountygov-rain

Food Access L.A. Is Now Offering Farmers' Market Online Ordering

Food Access L.A. is officially a USDA SNAP Online authorized retailer. Households that receive CalFresh or cash benefits can order Farmers' Market Boxes online with free delivery for a limited time. Food Access L.A. is also offering $15 in Market Match for boxes, so the cost is $35 per box for EBT customers ($50 for Non-EBT customers).

Details: https://tinyurl.com/food-accessla-org-eat-ordering

Navy Fields Reimagined

Help shape Lomita's newest recreation space. The City of Lomita is planning the future of the Lomita Sports and Community Center (formerly Navy Fields) https://lomitacity.com/lsc-ccproject.

What recreation features and amenities would you like to see?

Your input will help guide planning priorities and shape the future of this space for the Lomita community.

Details: https://tinyurl.com/lomita-community-center





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[Realities, from p. 1]

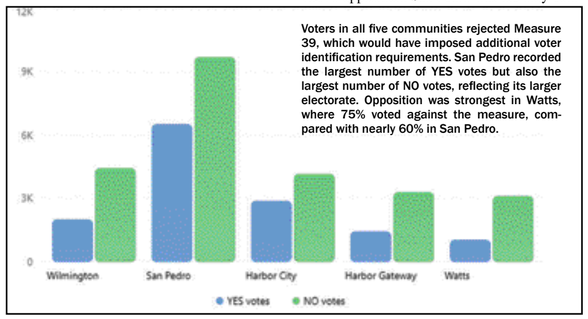
Two Realities

Harbor City. San Pedro registered the weakest support at 59.35%.

Measure 2, establishing a state rainy day fund, received 67.47% districtwide support. Wilmington (84.85%) and Watts (83.70%) were especially supportive, while San Pedro again trailed at 60.53%.

Measure 3, making a tax on high-income earners permanent to protect education funding, passed in the district with 66.21% support. San Pedro recorded the lowest support, at 57.53%, compared with 84.39% in Watts and 71.94% in Wilmington.

Measure 37, providing mortgage assistance to middle-income homebuyers, received 67.52% support districtwide. San Pedro again registered the lowest percentage, at 60.16%, while Watts reached 78.76%.



Voters in all five communities rejected Measure 39, which would have imposed additional voter identification requirements. San Pedro recorded the largest number of YES votes but also the largest number of NO votes, reflecting its larger electorate. Opposition was strongest in Watts, where 75% voted against the measure, compared with nearly 60% in San Pedro.

Money, elections and taxation

The political divide became more pronounced on Measure 4, which would establish public financing of elections. Although 55.06% of district voters supported it, San Pedro rejected the measure, with 51.20% voting no. Support reached 71.11% in Watts and 60.56% in Harbor Gateway.

Measure 40, a one-time tax on billionaires, exposed an even sharper divide. While 52.66% of district voters supported the tax, San Pedro was the only community among those compared to reject it, with 53.06% voting no. Support reached 65.37% in Watts, 57.60% in Wilmington, 55.71% in Harbor Gateway and 51.65% in Harbor City.

San Pedro also broke with the district on Measure 39, which would require government-issued identification for in-person voting and additional identifying information on mail ballots. Districtwide, 64.02% voted no, consistent with *RLN's* opposition. San Pedro was the only community in the comparison to support the measure, with 52.86% voting yes.

Similarly, Measure 42, restricting certain new state taxes, was rejected by 56.46% of district voters. San Pedro supported the restriction, with 51.90% voting yes. Wilmington, Harbor Gateway and Watts voted against it, with opposition reaching 62.44% in Watts.

Measure 41, restricting how certain tax revenues are treated under state spending limits, was rejected by 58.57% of district voters. San Pedro joined the rest of the district in voting no, although its opposition was comparatively weaker at 54.87%.

Other statewide measures

The district's voting patterns were more consistent on several other Measures.

Measure 5, changing procedures for filling vacancies following recall elections, received 57.47% support districtwide. San Pedro narrowly supported it, with 50.99% voting yes. *RLN* took no position.

Measure 38, authorizing $8.4 billion in bonds for immunology research, received 57.38% support in the district. San Pedro was again the least supportive community, at 55.31%.

Measure 43, which would have required a two-thirds vote for certain local taxes, was rejected by 61.72% of district voters. San Pedro voted no by 55.46%, compared with 75.61% opposition in Watts.

Measure 44, imposing a 90% revenue requirement for community clinics, was decisively rejected. More than 81% of district voters opposed it, including 83.29% in San Pedro.

Measure 45, changing environmental review requirements, was rejected by 57.75% of district voters. San Pedro opposed it by 55.83%, compared with 62.59% in Watts.

Read online to see how your neighbor voted in the midterm elections.

[PHL, from p. 2]

PHL Contract

this broad allegation and (b) the specific allegations set forth in the protest letter.

3. PHL charges that ABL's RFP bid was non-responsive. (a) How does the port respond to this charge broadly? And (b) How does the port respond to seven specific charges that *RLN* spelled out?

4. PHL charges that the ports relaxed ABL's proposal conditions after the bidding process. (a) How does the port respond to this charge broadly? And (b) how does it respond to each of seven specifics that *RLN* spelled out?

5. PHL argues that the evaluation process was flawed due to undisclosed conflicts of interest and procedural irregularities. (a) How does the port respond to these charges broadly? And how does it respond to four specifics that *RLN* spelled out:

6. PHL argues that "Commissioner Renwick's apparent involvement compromised the procurement" in two specific ways (which *RLN* spelled out) How does the port respond?

Because none of these questions were answered, we could only turn to the brief comments former Commissioner Ed Renwick offered in defense of quickly approving the contract.

First, in defense of choosing ABL, Renwick said:

> *This is going to make us much more competitive in the battle for the intermodal boxes. We also talked about operational improvements and information flows. It's going to make the operations better. It's going to make the operations cost less. And it's going to be environmentally better.*

But this seems to reflect a fundamental underlying problem caused by the railroads themselves: they have refused to share data that would allow PHL to do everything they claim they alone can do.

Second, Renwick called the 24-hour notice "a little unfortunate" and went on to say: "I think we have you know we've followed the normal procedures and we've reached a conclusion and I think delaying would be changing our normal procedures."

There are several things wrong here. Renwick's claim that normal procedures have been followed was disputed by the protest letter, and it's the commissioner's oversight job to investigate PHL's allegations to see if normal procedures really were followed. Renwick's statement conflated port staff reaching a conclusion with the board doing the same. When he spoke, the board hadn't reached a conclusion at all. Confusing the conclusions of two processes — the staff's and the board's — erases what comes in between: public comment, the protest letter and the board's deliberative responsibilities to make sense of it all.

Reinforcing that erasure, Renwick says that delay (to consider new information) would be changing normal procedure, which if true would be an indictment of normal procedure — that it's normal to rubber-stamp staff decisions without having time to assess outside information/challenges. Community activists and port critics have long argued that this is true. Yet, it's also true that the board often holds over matters from one meeting to the next. So why the hurry now?

Well, for one thing, Renwick was about to leave the board, and would not be able to vote on the matter if it were held over. The protest letter already questioned his involvement in the process as a potential conflict of interest, so his insistence on not delaying the vote only intensified that conflict. In contrast, Board President Beatrice Hsu did recuse herself from the entire discussion because of her BNSF stock ownership.

Finally, after this questionable defense of the process, Renwick shifted to offense. "The great wrong here is that we didn't rebid that contract for a quarter of a century," he said. "We should bid contracts out more frequently." That argument might have held more water if he weren't about to vote for a contract that runs through 2048, with built-in extensions.

But it also glosses over the fact that PHL's operations have been more like that of a terminal operator than that of most contractors selected by RFP. Terminal leases are routinely multi-decade affairs, with renewal options. Something similar makes good sense for PHL, as the Harbor Commission seemed set to recognize, until the railroads made their move.

The contract is now before the City Council's Trade, Travel, and Tourism Committee, which will hold a hearing on it on Nov. 13.

[Aquatic, from p. 2]

Aquatic Center

Games will put a new long-term operator in a strong position to restore and expand recreational, educational, and workforce training programs for our young people and their families."

Preparations are already advancing. The Oct. 22 Harbor Commission agenda included a proposed contract worth up to $172,912.95 for two docks and gangways at the aquatic center.

Peter Settelmayer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor welcomed the investment, emphasizing the opportunities it could create for children throughout the harbor.

"We know that our youth in Wilmington, in Harbor Gateway, and Harbor City might drive by the port, might see the port from a distance, but never have gotten this close," Settelmayer said. "What an opportunity to have a place to learn to sail in this beautiful venue. What an opportunity to have a place to learn to swim."

The announcement follows years of deferred maintenance, closures and uncertainty surrounding the center's future. Greater Los Angeles Scouting, which operated youth programs at the facility for decades, publicly opposed the port's termination of its lease, effective Dec. 31, 2025.

Harbor Commissioner Lee Williams has since outlined plans to select a permanent operator through a competitive proposal process in 2027. Questions surrounding public scheduling, community programming and long-term access guarantees remain unresolved.

Closing the ceremony, Gipson credited Richardson, McOsker and port leadership for their efforts during state budget negotiations.

"When it comes to our children, they're worth fighting for," Gipson said. "Some kids never get that opportunity; they only see it on television. But now they have an opportunity not only to get close to the ocean, but also have an opportunity to actually swim."

The event concluded with officials and community partners posing beside a ceremonial check representing the combined $10 million investment.

For San Pedro, the funding represents a significant step toward reviving a waterfront institution. Whether the promised community access survives beyond the Olympic spotlight will determine the project's lasting success.

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Dolores Mission Church
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Friends of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
Friends of the Coliseum Foundation
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Harbor Area Booster Association Inc.
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Harbor City Food Pantry
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Heal the Bay
Juneteenth 400
Kitty Bungalow
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LAPD Foundation
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Long Beach Blast
Long Beach Century Club
Long Beach Public Library Foundation
Los Alamitos Youth Center
Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation
Los Angeles Harbor College Foundation
Los Angeles Port Police Foundation
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Mary Star of the Sea Elementary School
Mary Star of the Sea High School
Port of Los Angeles High School
Ronald McDonald House of Long Beach
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Saint Matthias School
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Wilmington Community Clinic
Wilmington Historical Society
Wilmington YMCA
YMCA of the Greater Long Beach
YWCA of the Harbor Area and South Bay

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AT Length

He Asked Us to Pretend He Was on the Ballot

And the people answered with a resounding rebuke

By James Preston Allen, *Publisher*



In the weeks before the mid-term elections, the blowhard-in-chief flew around the red parts of the nation asking voters to "pretend I'm on the ballot." It was just another one of the Orange Felon's chaotic mistakes because America responded with a rebuke of Trumpism that we haven't seen since the Watergate investigation of Richard Nixon–another Republican crook. And who got elected was an even more resounding defeat of the anti-DEI white Christian nationalist policies and actions. More women of color, a liberal Christian, a Muslim, and the first Black governor of Georgia. All in all, the blue wave swept 154 democrats into office in the House, and 55 in the Senate, plus two independents (they are still counting votes in Alaska as of press time).

In short, this is a government that is beginning to look like the people they represent; isn't that a novel idea? No, it's what the promise of the Declaration of Independence intended.

As historic as this victory is over MAGA Republicanism, it is not a total defeat. You see, Trump led the assault against the cultural revolution that came out of the 1960s. The political revolution that was inclusive of Blacks, gays, Latinos, and women's equality and inclusion. Trump led the insurrection against all of the progress made over the last 50 years of struggle. And now he's losing this culture war, but he's not yet defeated.

This has echoes of America's own Civil War with the great last push from the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg. It was probably one of the most documented battles of this war, remembered most famously by Gen. George Pickett's charge up Cemetery Ridge; it was a disastrous defeat with over half of the 13,000 soldiers killed.

This wasn't the end of the war, but it was the beginning of the end for the Confederate army of Northern Virginia and Gen. Lee's surrender almost two years later. Remember President Lincoln's speech, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." To one extent or another, we are still defining just what that "proposition" means today.

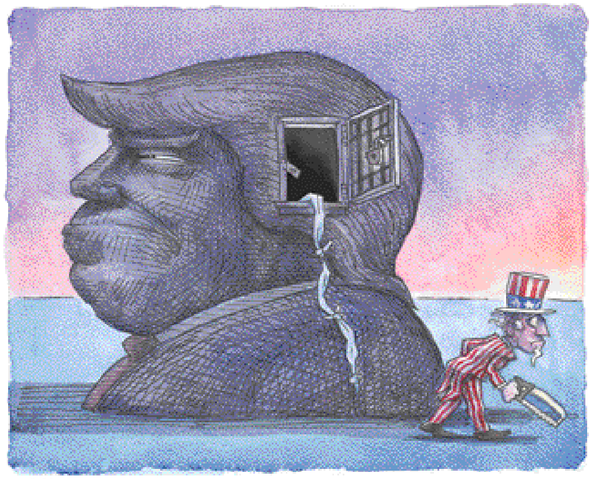
I make this reference because the culture wars have been just as divisive as our Civil War, pitting neighbor against neighbor and splitting families. In fact, it has been pursued specifically to divide us, and just like in the other war, the Union is beginning to prevail; the MAGA troops are starting to defect or retreat, and Commander Trump is losing on all fronts. It is not yet a surrender, nor will he ever admit the loss– it will always be someone else's fault. It is the beginning of the end of Trumpism.

What I am most cautiously proud of is the millions of Americans who woke up, stood up for One Nation with Liberty and Justice for All. Perhaps we may find some solace in the idea that we are stronger together as a nation than divided, that there is something to *e pluribus unum* after all. And yet if our history is to teach us anything from the 1860s it is that our country was too quick to forgive and forget. Only Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, was arrested and jailed, only later to be released without a sentence. And with the end of Reconstruction, the myth of the Lost Cause arose, along with Jim Crow laws and the disenfranchisement of Black civil rights for the next 100 years.

This time, the people are demanding accountability; they are demanding justice for the abuse of power, the illegal ICE raids, killings, and detentions, all of the Trump family's acts of corruption, and this stupid war on Iran. The list is practically too long to list, but there is certainly cause for impeachment of many in the cabinet and grounds to prosecute the Orange Felon once and for all.

Clearly, the anger of the American electorate was a judgment on the president himself and all of the co-conspirators who just stood by and watched him make a mockery of the ideals and democratic institutions that once made this nation great. And yet what this fool has done is to break so many of the bipartisan traditions of governance and expose the limits of our constitutional safeguards, so that whatever gets done after him will have to consider fixing what was broke — like changing the laws on convicted felons from holding office and putting an enforceable code of ethics on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The work of taking back America didn't end at the ballot box but will continue in the months and years to come. I am proud that our people had the fortitude to stand up against tyranny and to once again show faith in our democracy. For we can never allow such a tyrant to ever gain power in our republic again. The watchword is Eternal Vigilance!



The Case For Optimism this Election Season

Is all politics local again?

By Shawn E. Fields

The old adage that "all politics is local" seems a quaint relic of a bygone era. For much of this century, state and local races have been dominated by national political discourse.

Gubernatorial candidates, county commissioners, and even would-be school board members have taken up the hyper-partisan mantle of their respective national political parties, injecting wedge and culture war issues into races with little connection to issues affecting their local constituents. And for the last dozen years, this fixation on national politics has been supercharged by one happily polarizing presence. No matter how local the race, the question increasingly boils down to this: are you for or against Donald Trump?

At first blush, this midterm election season feels like more of the same. Democrats are dominating airwaves with attack ads tying Republican candidates to a deeply unpopular president. Republicans respond with ads linking Democratic candidates to a vague socialist takeover. Negative ads can be quite effective, and they may have even greater resonance in a cycle where an increasing number of voters detest both national parties.

Ironically, it may be this "pox on both their houses" mentality that gives reason for optimism this election season. A toxic Republican president increasingly out of touch with even his own base and a leaderless Democratic party still reeling from the self-inflicted wounds of the last election have forced more candidates to ignore national narratives and focus instead on intensely local matters of actual importance to voters. Rob Sand, the Democratic candidate for governor in Iowa, has expressly eschewed partisan talking points in favor of a laser focus on water quality and agricultural runoff in the state's farmland. Texas Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico has run ads featuring small-town mayors and local football coaches describing the detrimental impact of rural hospital closures in the state and expressing concern over data centers taking over farmland.

Both Senate candidates in Ohio, Sherrod Brown and Jon Husted, have run similar ads criticizing the presence of data centers and resulting higher electricity prices for Ohioans. And Republican candidates from northern border states with otherwise national brands and name recognition – Susan Collins, John Sununu, and Michele Tafoya – have decried the trade war with Canada as harmful specifically to their geographically proximate constituents.

While affordability, tariffs, and data centers can certainly be described as national political issues, politicians' focus on their local impact even when it bucks the party line reflects a growing

[continued on following page]

47 YEARS

RLN RANDOM LENGTHS NEWS

"A newspaper is not just for reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it."
—Mark Twain

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Publisher/Executive Editor
James Preston Allen
james@randomlengthsnews.com

Assoc. Publisher/Production Coordinator
Suzanne Matsumiya

Managing Editor
Terelle Jerricks
editor@randomlengthsnews.com

Senior Editor
Paul Rosenberg
paul.rosenberg@randomlengthsnews.com

Columnists/Reporters
Melina Paris Assistant Editor/Arts
Devonte Barr Community News Reporter
Greggory Moore Curtain Call

Photographers/Videographers
Arturo Garcia-Ayala,
Chris Villanueva

Contributors
Shawn E. Fields, ShuRhonda Bradley

Cartoonists
Andy Singer, Jan Sorensen, Matt Wuerker

Design/Production
Suzanne Matsumiya

Director of Digital Marketing
Devonte Barr

Advertising Sales
Richard Vaughn
reads@randomlengthsnews.com

Display advertising (310) 519-1442
Classifieds (310) 519-1016

www.randomlengthsnews.com
1300 S. Pacific Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Address correspondence regarding news items and tips to Random Lengths News, P.O. Box 731, San Pedro, CA 90733-0731, or email: editor@randomlengthsnews.com.

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association of alternative newsweeklies

RANDOM Letters

The Passing of a Friend

This week, the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance marked the passing of the long-time Harbor Area environmental justice champion.

One year ago this month, Jesse Marquez, founder and executive director of the Coalition for a Safe Environment, died on Nov. 3 after being in a coma following a Jan. 13 accident where he was hit by a car in a crosswalk.

Read more: https://tinyurl.com/honoring-Jesse-Marquez

Railroads' Record of Environmental Deceit

From the Southern California International Gateway project to reneged emissions agreements with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, BNSF Railway and Union Pacific have consistently put profits ahead of community trust and public health. Their recent joint venture, the Alameda Belt Line (ABL)—created to take over the short-haul rail contract at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach—continues this deceptive track record.

During recent Harbor Commission hearings, the public was given just 24 hours to review a 135-page agreement negotiated behind closed doors for over a year. Despite that rushed window, community members uncovered major loopholes in ABL's pledge to transition to 100% battery-electric locomotives by 2040—a promise that staff and a hand-picked, industry-backed selection committee used to justify awarding the bid. Weak contract terms can easily be exploited, proving that the railroads' commitment to protecting residents is tenuous at best. Meanwhile, industry representatives touted improved "efficiency" while ignoring community concerns and failing repeatedly to commit to real public health investments.

California voters recently affirmed that a full California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is essential whenever a project threatens public health and the environment. Yet port officials are ramming this contract through using a categorical CEQA exemption, claiming it will cause no significant impacts. That claim ignores reality: the contract's core directive is to expand rail utilization and pull more cargo through the port complex and surrounding neighborhoods from Wilmington, West Long Beach, to Colton, Barstow, and beyond.

This entire process is rife with conflicts of interest, monopoly control, backroom deals, and a disregard for environmental safeguards. If it smells like a dirty diesel train and acts like a dirty diesel train, it will most certainly remain one. Let's hope ABL proves us wrong. The lives of community members impacted by port pollution depend on it.

Dori Chandler
Policy Advocate with the Coalition for Clean Air

Tariffs on Russian Energy

Our President Donald Trump should be doing better and the majority of American people are expressing dissatisfaction with President Donald Trump's performance and policy delivery.

The Institute Survey found 58% of Americans view President Donald Trump as a potentially dangerous dictator who is trying to be more like Vladimir Putin, who he claims to be a great guy. And a good person.

Donald Trump signed an executive order waiving new sanctions on tariffs on Russian energy - for a 60 day review period, citing rising energy costs and supply disruptions in the Middle East.

The rising energy costs are because Donald Trump said there would be no more wars in the Middle East and yet he goes against his own policy and starts a war with Iran which is causing the high price of oil and gas.

It is not the job of the President's Executive Branch to settle tariffs. Congressional leaders who hold the primary power to set and levy tariffs under article 1, section of the U.S. Constitution. Congressional leaders can recall members back to Washington, D.C. quickly for urgent votes on war powers.

This Executive Order was not an urgent issue. Donald Trump is acting on bringing the price of diesel fuel down in order to get the votes for the Republican midterm general elections. The farmers who are complaining about the cost of diesel fuel could raise the cost of their produce to make up for the high cost of diesel fuel.

There needs to be more "checks and balances" from Congress. Donald Trump has thrown a wrench into the strategy of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in taking out their oil refineries that finance their war with Ukraine. When Donald Trump interferes instead of supporting Zelenskyy, he is prolonging the war and more innocent people are being killed.

John Winkler
San Pedro

Unlawful Enforcement

Random Lengths News blasted ICE agents for going after a U.S. citizen. Law enforcement must be conducted lawfully.

However, the larger issue cannot be ignored: activists are frustrating lawful immigration enforcement, and ICE wouldn't have to go into communities if California respected immigration laws, including ICE detainers.

Since when did progressives think it was acceptable to let illegal aliens enter the United States without any consequences?

Frank[sic] Delano Roosevelt secured our borders during his administration, and Barack Obama at least paid lip service to the idea that foreign nationals shouldn't get a free pass to enter the United States without authorization. Let's not forget that towards the end of his second term, Obama awarded former and current ICE director Thomas Homan the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service.

During a 2015 interview with Vox's Ezra Klein, Bernie Sanders believed in borders and derided the notion of open borders as a "Koch Brothers proposal."What has happened to the Left? They used to care about the working class. They used to believe in enforcing a nation's laws. Now, progressives like the writers at *Random Lengths News* spend more time covering the hardships of illegals instead of reflecting and exposing the harms done to working Americans because of illegal immigration: lower wages, higher costs for food and housing, and death. Before reporting on other "injustices" against illegals, *RLn* should interview Angel Parents like former progressive Don Rosenberg, Agnes Gibboney, and Angie Morfin, all California parents whose children were killed by illegal aliens.

Arthur Schaper
Torrance

Dear Mr. Shaper,

So let me get this straight: Do you approve of ICE agents arresting American citizens who accidentally ran into their vehicle while they were driving the wrong way on a residential street? Breaking his arm and not providing medical assistance until the LBPD showed up. You are arguing that it is OK to break the law while attempting to enforce another– and no one I know of on the left side or the political spectrum wants to protect criminals either legal or illegal- but mass incarcerations without hearings or legal representation is a bigger crime.

James Preston Allen
Publisher

[See **Letters**, p. 8]

Community Alert
South Coast Air Quality Management District

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[from previous page]

comfort with running more localized campaigns independent of the national political machinery. A Brookings Institution analysis from September confirms that while national political forces remain powerful, state-specific issues are dominating and shaping individual races in ways not seen in recent years.

A return to local politics should be celebrated. Focusing on local issues has intrinsic value, because the needs of a Maine lobsterman and Iowa corn farmer will differ from those of a suburban Atlanta office worker or a Silicon Valley tech employee. We want our politicians to respond to our individual issues, and a local focus is the best way to promote that.

More fundamentally, localized politics may be the salve for a democracy in decline. For years, political scientists have described the nationalization of American politics and its resulting polarization as one of the defining features of our democratic regression. A 2023 study of congressional elections over nearly two centuries described the contemporary era as one of historically high nationalization, and as a result, polarization. When Americans reflexively identify with one of two political camps as if they were sports teams, and consume only national political news, they invariably interpret even local controversies through a national ideological lens. Campaigns know this.

A 2026 study showed that campaign ads targeting a national donor audience were more ideologically extreme than locally targeted ads aimed at voters. And as Sand, Talarico, Tafoya, and others have shown, campaigns can refocus attention on nonpartisan, nonpolarizing issues that actually matter to people on the ground. In turn, a Democrat may become the governor of red-state Iowa at the same time a Republican may become the junior senator in blue-state Minnesota, because they successfully connect with the needs of those states and their citizens.

To be sure, the case for optimism is a mild one. Politics still offers plenty to be disgusted about.Vivek Ramaswamy's support for an ad questioning his opponent's account of being raped as a child by her indicted stepfather sparked bipartisan outrage. And the Mary Peltola campaign's actions to prop up a candidate with the same name as her opponent to confuse voters (and then lie about it for months) have breathed unnecessary life into previously conspiratorial claims of election fraud chicanery.

And of course, the national stakes – control of the House and Senate – remain front and center, with the outcome of many races undoubtedly to be decided by the singular unpopularity of one man who has been the center of political gravity in America for more than a decade. But as Kansas Senator Roger Marshall recently reminded voters, those elected to the Senate this year will serve twice as much of their term with Trump out of office as with him in office. What better time than now to start thinking about how to shape the future of politics?

With any luck, that future will be local.

Shawn Fields is vice dean of California Western School of Law and an expert in criminal law and procedure. He is an active commentator on contemporary legal and political issues, offering legal analysis and perspectives through contributions to Newsweek, HuffPost *and The San Diego Union-Tribune.*

"Those who would give up Liberty to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."
Benjamin Franklin

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RANDOM Letters

[Letters, from p. 7]

Who Will Lead?

Now that the country has spoken, what does this mean? Yes the Democrats have won big BUT, who is leading the Dems now that they have taken the Congress and Senate?

Is Sen. Schumer still alive?

Have you heard Speaker Hakeem Jeffries? Being the first Black Speaker ain't gonna make people's lives better! Good policy will!

Seems the slogan that Dems are embracing is "affordability." It wasn't mainstream Democrats like Schumer or Jeffries who introduced that term, IT was Mayor Mamdani! A social democrat!

Dem socialist doesn't mean the DSA only, it means progressive politics and policies! Working family oriented policies!

We the people need to push the Dem Party to do this!

Maybe the discussion about a Third Party or re-energizing the progressive wing of the Dem party is the next step!

Warren Furutani
Gardena

Ready for CHANGE

Everything came together in almost exactly the right way! Every section of American society is hurting because of the fascist policies of the Trump Administration and the cruelty and hardship of the enactment of Project 2025.

First and foremost— affordability.

In the battle between the belly and the brain—the belly always wins ! Too many Americans are literally facing the choice of gas in the tank or food in the refrigerator and it caused them to agree with Bernie Sanders that the economy is broken — the system is rigge — and the people will not be fooled with allegations of voter fraud, criminal aliens, or "Haitians are eating your pets." Fraud and corruption is widespread and open.

Farmers know the war in Iran is causing $9 diesel fuel and rising fertilizer costs. Young marrieds know something needs to change or they will never be homeowners. We all know that Trump has created a massive private police force that (unchecked) will eventually round up protesters of every sort but in the meantime is hiding our neighbors in for profit prisons under the guise of "solving the immigration issue." The demand to abolish ICE was heard across the country.

The result — the American people voted in massive numbers.

So what exactly happened last night? The bottom line is that Democrats now control the House and the Senate. But that is only the first line of the story. The talking heads will have lots to chatter about as the results are analyzed every which way but it seems clear that every segment of American society said to Trump "You are deranged and your policies are causing us too much harm."

Consider these unprecedented Democratic victories:

In Texas, James Talarico won the US Senate race and Gina Hinojosa defeated Greg Abbott to become the first Latina governor in Taxes history !! All the down-ballot races were also affected and Texas is now BLUE. A state that is ground zero for data centers where Elon Musk spent a good part of the almost HALF BILLION $ that he spent trying to buy elections across America. Both Talarico and Hinojosa campaigned with the slogan "TEXAS IS NOT FOR SALE."

In Maine, Troy Jackson defeated Trump favorite Susan Collins for the U.S. Senate.

Jon Ossoff, cited as a potential presidential contender in 2028, has been re-elected to the Senate in Georgia.

Adam Hamilton, pastor of the largest Methodist church in Kansas became the first Democratic Senator in 94 YEARS !!!!

Keisha Lance Bottoms, Atlanta mayor, became the first Black female governor of Georgia.

Deb Haaland, Interior Secretary under Joe Biden, was elected Governor of New Mexico — the first Native American woman to win a governorship.

Annie Andrews, a pediatrician won a Senate seat in South Carolina, defeating Trump's personally picked candidate Darline Graham (sister of Lindsey Graham who famously stated when she announced her candidacy, "I really don't know anything about national security."

Amy Acton elected governor of Ohio after a campaign in which her billionaire opponent ran a disgusting ad featuring Acton's estranged mother who had not spoken to her daughter in 50 years after losing a custody battle in which the mother elected to stay with her pedophile husband who was found guilty of raping Acton. Ohio voters found the ad disgusting while Trump and Vance applauded the ad.

Peggy Flanagan, Native American woman, elected as Senator from Minnesota.

There were many other victories (our own Xavier Becerra elected governor of California, Amy Klobuchar elected governor of Minnesota, Josh Turek, Roy Cooper, Sherrod Brown, and Chris Pappas all elected as U.S. Senators) but I want to close by sharing information about Dr. Abdul El-Sayed who was elected to the US Senate and made history by becoming the country's first Muslim senator.

I spent the first 32 years of my life in Michigan, have many family members still in the state, and followed this race very closely. I could not be more proud of Dr. El Sayed. He campaigned on three endlessly repeated themes: "Put money in your pocket, get money out of politics, and medical care for all." Dr. El Sayed is Egyptian, was born in Michigan, is a medical doctor and served as Director of Detroit's public health system. He is extremely well spoken. The Israel lobby thru AIPAC spent $40 million dollars to try to defeat him in the primary.

The Republican party spent hundreds of millions (this was the most expensive Senate race in US history) trying to beat him in November. Trump called him a "terrorist Jihadist." My Michigan relatives told me the ads were relentless and viciously racist including implying that "Blacks would never vote for a Muslim." I will wait for the detailed analysis but it looks like he carried some precincts in Detroit by over 80 %.

In his victory speech, Dr. El Sayed calmly stated, "Trump seems to have a hard time pronouncing my name but it will be easier in January. He can simply call me Senator." Go Abdul !!!!

We still have a long way to go. A clear message was sent to Trump. Let's hope the Democrats were listening. They now have to answer the question, "Which side are you on?" Endless war and support for oligarchs and your billionaire contributors or the American people?

Time will tell. La lucha continua !!

Diane Middleton
San Pedro







From Palestine to San Pedro: 'Seeds For Liberation' Connects Movements for Liberation and Justice

By Melina Paris, *Assistant Editor*

Matthew Solomon, director of *Seeds For Liberation*, had recently returned from a trip to Palestine when he spoke to *Random Lengths News* about his film, which *RLN* reviewed upon its release in January of this year. The award-winning and enlightening film will be featured at the 2026 San Pedro International Film Festival, or SPIFFest, Nov. 14.

Seeds For Liberation centers Palestinian voices and experiences while connecting the Free Palestine movement to ongoing Black resistance, Chicano activism, and other collective struggles. From Gaza and the West Bank to Stop Cop City and digital activism, the film spans decades of solidarity. It culminates in reflections on what liberation and a free Palestine truly mean. Since its release, Matthew has been touring the film globally, including in Palestine. Many more people both in the U.S. and internationally now understand these pervasive connections, thanks in large part to this film.

During this global tour, the most significant thing that has changed for Matthew in his relationship to the film was going to Palestine's West Bank, and seeing everything for himself.

"Even before then, my relationship to the film has changed," said Matthew. "Having been there, even after having made a movie about it, hearing the stories, sharing the footage, and seeing the footage, the reality of it, like [journalist] Abby Martin says in the film, 'Nothing can prepare you for the reality on the ground. It's so much worse than you even think it is.'"

The filmmaker experienced an emotional resonance while in the West Bank. Two Palestinians in the film, Mo Hamz, a Palestinian-American activist, author, and content creator, and Mimi Abu Ghazaleh, a Washington, DC-based organizer, both spoke about feeling a connection to the land and how beautiful it was. And Mo discussed the conflicting layers of emotions, the happiness, the sadness, the anger, the beauty.



"I experienced all of that," Matthew said. "I had their dialogue in my head the whole time. It's just so blatantly obvious how it's an apartheid state, and how Palestinians are targeted, harassed and violated every step of the way, because the Zionists and the Zionist Israelis just want them to leave, and they don't care."

Palestinians at the screening told Matthew that Seeds showed them they weren't alone. It reminded them of how much support they have. Especially student activists who said that they've been so exhausted, and the film re-inspired them on what they were fighting for.

Seeds For Liberation screened in Ramallah and Hebron. Matthew recalled feeling self-conscious as the film started to roll, thinking, 'This is a film about the horrors that are happening there, but we are there, these are the people that it's happening to. I don't know how it will be received …'

"The unfortunate thing is because [of this] there's no re-traumatizing, it's just a daily thing," he said.

Seeds was received very positively with good discussions afterwards. Matthew said it was profound to show it in the West Bank. Yet, importantly, while the people were very happy to see the support, they're still being bombed. So, they questioned, how is it stopping what's happening, which, Matthew said, is fair.

As the genocide in Gaza continues, confoundingly, despite a so-called ceasefire, and settler violence and displacement permeate the West Bank, *Seeds* highlights Palestinian resistance. Seeds is a document on how social media has challenged dominant Western narratives and brought the Free Palestine movement into global consciousness.

When asked if this experience has changed him in any way, Matthew said, "It just gets deeper and more meaningful. It increases my resolve."

One of the cool things, he said, is that because the film shows footage from around the country and around the world, when he visits different cities, and a scene from that city [plays], like a protest or an encampment, people are very excited to see that.

"We showed the film in Jalapa, Veracruz, in Mexico with Spanish subtitles, and people were reacting and responding to the film there," he said. "They were asking questions about the Chicano movement, because they're in Mexico, so it's not a movement for them. So [it was] interesting that I'm explaining this.

Seeds makes clear the connections between Palestine history under the IDF and the Black, Chicano and collective liberation movements in the U.S. It also reveals the depth of the US-Israeli connection highlighting surveillance and the oppression of both its peoples. People around the world are against the genocide, en-masse. Most governments do not show the same resolve. There lies the issue. Our discussion led to the account of the paradigm shift in opinion the U.S. experienced in the late 1960s on the Vietnam war. What would it take for the U.S. to reach a profound level of opposition to this genocide?

"It's gotten way past what we thought would need to happen for there to be the sea change," Matthew said. Conversely, "Mo Hamza talks about how, as a Palestinian, he's never seen this much support, and these many people talking about Palestine, to the extent where some politicians are distancing themselves from AIPAC."

Matthew cited a statistic of Jews in the U.S. — around 30% — who are opposed to the genocide. (J Street found that 31% of Jewish poll respondents backed ending military aid to Israel, and agree its conduct

[See Seeds, p. 13]



Still of a pro-Palestine rally in Washington, D.C. from the film *Seeds For Liberation*

Beyond the First Bite: Miller Butler's Culinary Journey to the Sepulveda Home

By ShuRhonda Bradley, *Columnist*

Food festivals let my taste buds travel — kind of like Remy in *Ratatouille*. My first real taste adventure with Miller Butler was at the Terranea Food & Wine Festival in 2024.

For me, it started with a slice of pizza topped with sweet corn and fresh basil. Every bite tasted like summer. Of everything I sampled at the festival, that surprising corn pizza is what I remember most.

Since then, the husband-and-wife team of Jillana Nadine Miller and Ahmad Jamal Butler has been popping up everywhere, from Palos Verdes to West Harbor to Long Beach. They've also become regulars at events hosted by The Den, including a Halloween celebration just a couple of weeks ago.



Sara Portillo, left, of the Sepulveda Home with Miller Butler's Pizza duo, Ahmad Jamal Butler and Jillana Nadine Miller, at the Nov. 6 San Pedro Chamber Beignets and Coffee fundraiser. Photos courtesy of the Sepulveda Home

But last weekend, at a beignets-and-coffee fundraiser hosted by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce at the historic Sepulveda Home, I got to experience another side of their culinary talents: New Orleans-style beignets.

It was an opportunity for Miller and Butler to introduce guests to the Creole, soul and Southern food traditions they hope to bring to the historic property, a 1929 Louisiana French Colonial-style residence and outdoor event venue. The home has been in the Portillo family since 1985, and the family has rented its outdoor space for weddings and special events for the past 20 years.



Ahmad serving beignets at the Sepulveda Home.

The beignets served were just the beginning.

New Orleans beignets have roots in French culinary traditions brought to Louisiana by French settlers and later French-speaking immigrants. Over time, the city developed its own distinctive version, shaped by Creole culture and the influences of Acadian, Caribbean and African American cooks. Like so much of New Orleans cuisine, the beignet tells a story of cultures coming together around food.

The dessert became synonymous with New Orleans thanks in large part to the legendary Café du Monde, established in 1862, which helped popularize the square, powdered-sugar-covered treat.

Then Jillana mentioned plans for supper club dinners at the Sepulveda Home, beginning in February, just in time for Mardi Gras. And when she said gumbo would be on the menu, she had my attention.

Sara Portillo encouraged guests to consider the historic home for their own celebrations and spoke about collaborating with Miller Butler to bring more culinary experiences to the property.

What I liked most, though, was that Jillana didn't just tell us what she and Ahmad had planned. She asked what we wanted to see.

She invited everyone to share ideas and help shape what happens at the house. As a San Pedro local, I appreciated that. I could already imagine the conversations taking off if everyone shared the dish they'd want served at a supper club — and the story behind it.

With my Southern roots, just hearing Jillana mention gumbo had me thinking about the roux. How dark will they make it? What will give the gumbo its depth? Will the heat hit right away or build slowly?

That's what I love about Southern cooking. You can ask two people how they make the same dish and get two completely different answers, each with its own history, traditions, and family secrets. The ingredients may be familiar, but the stories behind them make every pot different.

I went to the Sepulveda House already knowing what Jillana and Ahmad could do with pizza. I left wondering what they could do with a full dinner.

And when they serve that gumbo, I want a bowl—and a chance to ask them how they made it.

Follow the Sepulveda Home on Instagram @thesepulvedahome and its website, www.sepulvedahome.com for updates on the Madi Gras-themed supper club dinners in February 2027.





BUONO'S AUTHENTIC PIZZERIA



Family owned and operated since 1965, Buono's is famous for award-winning brick oven baked pizza. Buono's also offers classic Italian dishes and sauces based on tried-and-true family recipes and hand-selected fresh ingredients. All you can eat Trip to Italy Lunch Buffet is back. Dine-in and patio service, takeout and delivery. Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. **Buono's Pizzeria, corner of 6th and Centre sts., Little Italy San Pedro, 310-547-0655, buonospizza.com**

THE CORNER STORE



Serving San Pedro Since 1947. A true Coastal San Pedro landmark, The Corner Store has long been a neighborhood favorite. Now run by realtor-turned-restaurateur David De Anda and his wife, Julieth, this historic mom-and-pop shop is thriving again. See what locals are raving about — the best breakfast burrito in town, rich café de olla, and a growing selection of house-made cheesecake, pastries, and muffins. Enjoy classic subs, sandwiches, soups, salads, crafted coffees, old-school sodas, beer & wine. Just one block from the ocean, it's the perfect spot for a seaside treat. **The Corner Store, 1118 W. 37th St., San Pedro, 310-832-2424, Instagram & Facebook: @TheCornerStoreSanPedro**

HAPPY DINER #2



Happy Diner #2 offers American favorites like omelets and burgers, fresh salads, plus pasta and Mexican dishes. Dine-in or call for pickup. We can host large groups for private parties with full service catering. Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Sat. 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Happy Diner #2, 1931 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, 310-935-2933.**

HAPPY DINER #3



In South Shores, Happy Diner #3 offers the same home cooking and superior service as #1 and #2 for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dine-in or order online for delivery or call for pickup. Ask about our military member and senior discounts Hours: Mon. - Sat.. 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Happy Diner #3, 2410 S. Western Ave., San Pedro (Harbor Villages Shopping Center), 424-267-6243.**

PINA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT



Pina's Mexican Restaurant serves traditional Mexican food from Michoacan for breakfast through dinner, and is known for specialty enchiladas, burritos, tacos and mariscos served in a comfortable, casual dining atmosphere. Pina's now has a full bar and outside dining, so come on by for a real margarita! Party trays for any occasion. Hours: Sun. - Wed. 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Thurs. - Sat. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. **Pina's Mexican Restaurant, 1430 W. 25th St., San Pedro, 310-547-4621, www.pinas-mexicanrestaurant.com**

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RANDOM Happening

San Pedro Nature and Art Soar: Live Raptors and Fall Open Studios

Meet Live Owls, Hawks and More at a Special Bird-Themed Nature Club at White Point Nature Preserve



Families are invited to spread their wings and discover the fascinating world of birds at a special nature club on Nov. 14 at the White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve in San Pedro.

Presented by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, this engaging, hands-on program will feature special guests from Raptor Events, bringing live owls, hawks, and other remarkable birds for children to meet up close. Young nature enthusiasts will discover what makes these birds so extraordinary, from their incredible eyesight and powerful talons to their unique adaptations for survival in the wild.

Children will also enjoy creative bird-themed crafts and venture outdoors to observe birds in their natural habitat, learning about the important role our feathered friends play in the local ecosystem.

Designed for children ages 3 to 10, 'Nature Club' offers a fun and memorable opportunity for families to connect with wildlife, explore nature, and inspire a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors. **Nature Club – Birds of a Feather! Featuring Live Birds from Raptor Events**

[See **Happening**, p. 13]





MUSIC

Music at the Sardine
Check out the most cutting-edge punk bands in San Pedro.
Details: https://www.thesardinepedro.com
Venue: The Sardine, 1101 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Nov. 12 - Qapla / Constant Insult / Adulterine, $10, 6 p.m.

Nov. 13 - Destructive Bastards / Lewd Platoon / Oskarholix / Aggro Vated, $5, 8 p.m.

Nov. 14 - Love For Laila w/ Toys That Kill / Lenguas Largas / Shepards, $10, 8 p.m.

Nov. 16 - Karaoke, free, 8 p.m.

Nov. 18 - Jumpstarted Plowhards / Bromp Treb / Direct Mutant Action, 7 p.m.

Nov. 19 - City Mouse, 8 p.m.

Nov. 21 - Razorcake Anniversary with Faulty Cognitions / LXS Cochinx / La Tuya $10, 6 p.m.

Nov. 22 - Sardine swap meet, 12 p.m.

Nov. 23 - Karaoke, free, 8 p.m.

Nov. 24 - Mojo Mic, 8 p.m.

Collage
Collage builds relationships with artistic and cultural communities and provides a space where they may come together to teach, learn and entertain.
Details: https://www.collageart-culture.org
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Nov. 20 - Musical Conversations with Pablo Calogero, $15 to $20, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 22 - Oddball Country with The Doohickeys and special guest Jordan Bush, $30, 4 p.m.

Nov. 28 - This Machine Kills Fascists: An Afternoon of Protest Songs, $10, 2 p.m.

Alvas Showroom Lineup
You won't find a greater music listening experience than Alvas Showroom.
Details: alvasshowroom.com
Venue: Alvas Showroom, 1417 W. 8th St., San Pedro

Nov. 8 - South Bay New Orleans Jazz Club, $15, 1 p.m.

Nov. 13 - Ned and Neo, $25, 8 p.m.

Nov. 14 - Fine Folk, $15, 8 p.m.

Nov. 20 - Encore Saxophone Quartet, $25, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 21 - Bruce Baker Collective, $30, 8 p.m

Nov. 13

Straight No Chaser Cuts to the Chase
More than a decade after turning a collegiate hobby into a recording career that has taken this acclaimed group around the globe, Straight No Chaser will perform their *Making Spirits Bright* tour.
Time: Nov. 13, 8 p.m.
Cost: $48
Details: https://tinyurl.com/straight-cerritos
Venue: Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts,
18000 Park Plaza Drive, Cerritos

Telephone Tag
Telephone Tag's music weaves together heartfelt lyrics, lush violin lines and driving guitar rhythms, creating songs that feel cinematic yet deeply personal.
Time: 7 p.m., Nov. 13 and 14
Cost: $37, $65 with dinner
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Telephone-Tag-TOCA
Venue: TOCA, Nakano Theatre, 3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

Nov. 14

The Power of Passion with Ravel, Strauss and Rachmaninoff
The concert brings together three iconic orchestral works that explore the intensity and complexity of human emotion.
Time: 6 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. pre-concert talk with Eckart Preu and featured guest, 7:30 p.m. concert, Nov. 14
Details: LongBeachSymphony.org
Venue: Long Beach Terrace Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach

Renee Safier and Bob Malone
Grand Annex favorites Bob Malone and Renee Safier, along with saxophonist Nelson Rangell, join forces for a night of classic jazz and blues standards. Wine tasting starts at 7 p.m.
Time: 8 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: $19 and up
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Safier-Malone-and-Rangell
Venue: Grand Annex, 434 W. 6th St., San Pedro

Entangled in Passion
The concert will present Ravel Bolero, Strauss Don Juan, and Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring Grammy Award-Winning Michelle Cann
Time: 7:30 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: $58.30 and up
Details: https://tinyurl.com/entangled-in-passion
Venue: Terrace Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach

Opening Notes
Colburn announces this new series designed to encourage children 13 and younger to engage with a range of performance settings, while welcoming audiences of all ages and abilities to share in the experience. Advance reservations are required.
Time: 10 a.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Opening-Notes-Family-concerts
Venue: Zipper Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

Nov. 15

Songs Without Borders
The Camerata String Ensemble takes you on a musical journey celebrating the beauty of music across cultures, traditions and generations from Debussy to Vaughan Williams, de Falla and Neill and Krouse.
Time: 4:30 p.m., Nov. 15
Cost: $45 to $60
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Songs-Without-Borders
Venue: California Heights United Methodist Church, 3759 Orange Ave., Long Beach

Nov. 20

Albert Lee & His Band
A guitar pioneer, Lee has backed icons like the Everly Brothers, Eric Clapton and Emmylou Harris.
Time: 8 p.m., Nov. 20
Cost: $38.80 and up
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Albert-Lee-at-the-Annex
Venue: Grand Annex, 424 W. 6th St., San Pedro

Nov. 28

Up Close and Classical Boccherini
Hear Boccherini and Schubert performed by a string quartet in this series of free classical performances.
Time: 6:30 p.m., Nov. 28
Cost: Free
Details: https://upcloseandclassical.com/next/?
Venue: Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 1292 W. Santa Cruz St., San Pedro

ARTS ▶ CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT

THEATER
Nov. 12

Reefer Madness: The Musical
An unlikely musical comedy inspired by an earnest 1936 public service film of the same name, this raucous spoof takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the hysteria caused when clean-cut kids fall prey to marijuana.
Time: Nov. 12 to Nov. 15
Cost: $20 to $32
Details: www.lbplayhouse.org
Venue: Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach

Blithe Spirit
In a bid to gather background material for his upcoming book, fussy, cantankerous Charles Condomine invites the eccentric and flighty local medium, Madame Arcati, to conduct a séance at his home.
Time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 28
Cost: $22 to $28
Details: www.lbplayhouse.org
Venue: Long Beach Playhouse, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach

ART
Nov. 13

Community Art Show Opening Reception
This special event will feature a dynamic range of artwork — from paintings and sculpture to photography and mixed media.
Time: 6 to 8:30 p.m., Nov. 13
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/PV-library-Community-art-show
Venue: Peninsula Center Library, 701 Silver Spur Road #3603, Rolling Hills Estates

Nov. 14

Celebration of Art
Jewelry, clothing, fabrics, paintings, ceramics, glass, woodwork and more will be on sale throughout the weekend sale and show. Purchases include free raffle tickets for prizes. Presented by the Artists' Studio of Palos Verdes.
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 14, 15
Cost: Free
Details: pvartcenter.org
Venue: Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Second Saturday ArtWalk
Self-guided tour art galleries/studios throughout downtown San Pedro.
Time: 1 to 5 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free

Gallery Azul 20th Anniversary
Gallery Azul celebrates its 20th anniversary alongside the many artists who have shown in the gallery over the last two decades, old and new.
Time: 4 to 8 p.m., artists reception, Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: https://www.galleryazul.com
Venue: Gallery Azul, 520 W. 8th St., San Pedro

Faces & Places— The Art of Robyn Friend
Bulgarian-American painter Robyn Friend whose oils and pastels are informed by years of immersion in the poetry, music and visual traditions of the Old World.
Time: 4 to 7 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/faces-and-places
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Los Angeles Harbor Arts presents Wim van Aken
Often dubbed the "classicist of his time," van Aken was strongly inspired by Greek and Roman antiquity, classical architecture and Renaissance masters.
Time: 4 p.m. opening reception, Second Saturday, Nov. 14.
Cost: Free
Details: laharborarts@gmail.com
Venue: Los Angeles Harbor Arts, 401 S. Mesa St., San Pedro

Glyphs and Stones
Fallon Lavertue's painterly back grounds are punctuated with floating glyphs resembling those found in military screen grabs of so-called "UFO"s. Lavertue also displays stones; some as painted portraits of stones and others as actual stone—reminders of her coming of age in New Hampshire. The show runs through Dec. 23.
Time: Noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Artist talk Nov. 22, 3 p.m.
Cost: Free
Details: solosanpedro.com
Venue: solo., 366 W. 7th St., San Pedro

Constellate
Save the date for the opening of Constellate, the 2026 Professional Artist Fellows Exhibition.
Time: 2 to 4 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Constellate-LB-Arts
Venue: Billie Jean King Main Library, 200 W. Broadway, Long Beach

FILM
Nov. 12

Jewish Long Beach Film Festival
The Long Beach Jewish Film & Arts Festival features six films exploring Jewish experiences across generations and continents, along with a red-carpet premiere, receptions, a free family fun day, a live concert by Mostly Kosher and a pickle-making workshop.
Time: Various times, Nov. 12 to 19
Cost: $0 to $25 and up, for passes
Details: www.jewishlongbeach.org/lbjff
Venue: Alpert JCC, 3801 E. Willow St., Long Beach

Nov. 13

San Pedro International Film Festival
SPIFFest 15th edition launches Nov. 13 with local topics and films about homelessness, landslides and traditions and timely documentaries including *Seeds For Liberation*.
Time: Various times, Nov. 13, 15
Cost: $12.51 to $55 - for festival pass
Details: https://spiffest.org/program-schedule
Venue: Various locations

Salt of the Earth Film Screening
Who makes your Thanksgiving possible? Behind every meal are people who plant, harvest, pack, transport, prepare, and serve our food. This Thanksgiving season, gather to celebrate their work and stand alongside them. The event will also feature custom artwork created for the occasion.
Time: 1:30 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: $10.91
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Salt-of-the-Earth-Film
Venue: Milagro Cinemas Norwalk, 13917 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk

LITERATURE
Nov. 12

Trenches Full of Poets
Readings by SoCal writers Peter Lechuga, liz gonzalez and Sammy Herrera, followed by an open mic opportunity for those who want to speak their peace.
Time: 7 p.m., Nov. 12
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Nov-Trenches-Full-of-Poets
Venue: Page Against The Machine, 2714 E. 4th St., Long Beach

The People's Historian: The Outsized Life of Howard Zinn
Page Against The Machine and the First Congressional Church of Long Beach will host *Nation* magazine columnist and *New York Times* bestselling author Dave Zirin presenting his latest book, *The People's Historian: The Outsized Life of Howard Zinn*.
Time: 4 p.m., Nov. 15
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Peoples-Historian-Zinn
Venue: First Congressional Church of Long Beach, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach

Nov. 21

Katya Williamson & Gina O'Melveny
Katya will read from her transformational essays, *Leap! From Faith to Empowerment*, and Regina will read from her poetry collection *A Good Broom.*
Time: 2 p.m., Nov. 21
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Collage-author-event
Venue: Collage, 731 S. Pacific Ave., San Pedro

Nov. 21

Eugene Daub and James Preston Allen
In-store discussion and book signing by two local artists.
Time: 5 p.m., Nov. 21
Cost: Free
Details: www.patmbooks.com
Venue: Page Against The Machine, 2714 E. 4th St., Long Beach

NATURE
Nov. 14

Alta Vicente Reserve (upper) Outdoor Volunteer Day
Help to restore habitat on the 22-acre restoration site for rare native birds (the cactus wren and California gnatcatcher) and rare native butterflies (Palos Verdes Blue and El Segundo Blue).
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.volunteerhub.com
Venue: Alta Vicente Reserve, 30940 Hawthorne Blvd, Rancho Palos Verdes

Nature Club for Kids: Birds
Do fun bird crafts and observe birds in their natural habitat. Special guests from Raptor Events will be bringing live birds. Ages 3 to 10 years old. No advanced signup is required.
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.org/calendar
Venue: White Point Nature Preserve, 1600 Paseo del Mar, San Pedro

A Walk Through Nature & History
Celebrate Veterans Day by walking through restored coastal sage scrub habitat and stop at a former World War II gun emplacement to learn about the military history of the area. Time: 9 a.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free
Details: pvplc.org/calendar
Venue: White Point Nature Preserve, 1600 Paseo del Mar, San Pedro

Nov. 22

Nature Walk at Pelican Cove Park
Hike past the native flora and fauna, and explore the tide pools teeming with marine life. The hiking difficulty is moderate to strenuous.
Time: 1 p.m., Nov. 22
Cost: Free
Details: 310-544-5375; www.losserenosrpv.org/
Venue: Pelican Cove Park, 31300 Palos Verdes Drive S., Rancho Palos Verdes

COMMUNITY
Nov. 13

Artists Happy Hour
Each Friday you can hang with fellow artists, have a drink, talk shop, etc. BYOB encouraged. Non-artists are welcome.
Time: 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 13
Cost: Free
Details: https://www.solosanpedro.com/
Venue: solo., 366 W. 7th St., San Pedro

Nov. 20

Harbor Glow
This holiday season, explore 15-plus larger-than-life illuminated scenes across two magical worlds: the sparkling Winter Dreamscape and the bioluminescent World Beneath the Waves.
Time: Nov. 20 to Jan. 3
Cost: $19 and up
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Harbor-Glow-Lights
Venue: West Harbor, 1332 S. Harbor Blvd., San Pedro

Nov. 21

Celebrate Asian Cultures at Autumn Festival
The 25th annual Autumn Festival explores and celebrates the traditions of China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines through music, dance, crafts and storytelling.
Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 21 and 22
Cost: $34.95 to $49.95
Details: https://tinyurl.com/Aquarium-LB-Autumn-Festival
Venue: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach

Nov. 22

Torrance Antique Street Faire
Join the hunt for vintage treasures as more than 200 dealers set up along the streets of downtown Torrance. The faire will include dining and entertainment with DJ Ozzie and live music. Plus, visit the antique appraisal booth for appraisals at $3 per item. Pets are welcome.
Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 22
Cost: Free
Details: https://www.facebook.com/TorranceAntiqueStreetFaire
Venue: 1317 Sartori Ave., Torrance

[Seeds, from p. 9]

Seeds For Liberation

in Gaza is a genocide. That number jumped to 60% for Jews under 35).

"With Vietnam, it was the nightly images on TV, I believe, that helped turn the tide. It also became very costly, because people in the United States would see the coffins coming back with flags on them. Most Americans don't get how connected we are to Palestine. I don't know what images it would take. It's been horrifying what we've seen. Corporate media doesn't show any of it … It would need to get to the point where it's in the mainstream, [so] people are seeing what happens."

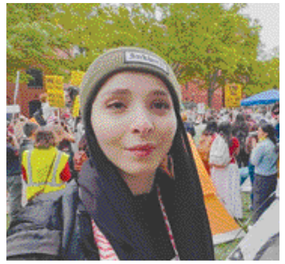
What to understand about Palestine and its people

"Palestinians have been talking about their experiences for almost 80 years," Matthew said. "I don't want to speak on their behalf … But because I've been there, I have a responsibility to share what I've seen, and I was invited there [with] a delegation of storytellers. The Palestinians are living under a violent occupation. Any suggestion that they have rights, [or] control over their living situation is just false."

He noted a recent election happened there and about five-million Palestinians who live there are unable to vote because they've been disenfranchised. Either they're not considered citizens, or there is an array of criteria and reasons they are given. Matthew compared it to how the United States is trying to disenfranchise voters.

Being in Palestine reminded him of the U.S., "but completely unhinged, unchecked," and how like here, there's no checks and balances. He pointed to redlining, housing discrimination, and the racist criminal legal system here. He noted that what's happening in Palestine happened here first, to the Indigenous people and Black people, through genocide, dispossession, and enslavement.

"When we talk about the imperial boomerang, it literally started here. Now, we see it [in Palestine], the way it was here 200-300 years ago. Manifest Destiny and the Zionist entity, it's all the same. It's just not as polite there."



Still of Washington, D.C. protest from *Seeds For Liberation* and Mimi Abu Ghazaleh, a Washington, D.C.-based organizer sharing a scene in front of a pro-Palestinian college encampment.

The theory describes how the repressive and violent control techniques — extreme militarization, state surveillance, and psychological operations — used by imperial powers to govern foreign colonies ultimately return home to be used against their own domestic citizens.

Matthew mentioned Chuck Modiano in *Seeds*, who discusses "the deadly exchange where police in the U.S. train with the IOF" (Israeli 'Offense' Forces or IDF).

"We exchange weapons and tactics," he said, "The knee on the neck with George Floyd is what the IOF regularly has done with Palestinians, the surveillance, the Cop cities, the urban training facilities — there's at least 85 of them across the country — that's all modeled after Little Gaza, (in Negev Desert) where the IOF trains their soldiers."

SPIFFest

Matthew is super excited to return to SPIFFest. Despite his films' successes, many festivals aligned with the Free Palestine movement didn't program *Seeds*. Instagram also heavily suppresses it, as it does many pro-Palestine accounts.

"So, Ziggy and SPIFFest having the courage and just the integrity to show a film like this, like they did with Reimagining Safety, it just means a lot," he said. "And San Pedro is a beautiful city. I love the opportunity to be in community with you all there, and to show the film, and to have it in a really nice theater, and bringing people out.

"I'm just really honored to have this be a part of SPIFFest. We're doing what we can to get the film out there with no financial backing."

Ziggy Mrkich, founder and festival director of SPIFFest, told *RLN* via email:

"Matthew Solomon's *Seeds For Liberation* is a must-see film — powerful, timely, and deeply thought-provoking. SPIFFest is proud to have also screened his documentary Reimagining Safety. Together, these films demonstrate Matthew's extraordinary ability to capture the zeitgeist and his unwavering commitment to addressing the most pressing issues facing our society today. His work reminds us that storytelling is more than an art form — it is a responsibility. When you have a voice and a platform, you have an obligation to use them to challenge injustice, spark meaningful dialogue, and amplify the voices of those who too often go unheard."

Like with *Reimagining Safety*, all the interviews were filmed on iPhone, and edited on a laptop. In December, *Seeds* will tour Washington State. And, the day of SPIFFest, Nov. 14, *Seeds* will screen in Mexico City, its third screening in our neighboring country, hosted by the Palestinian ambassador's office.

SPIFFest presents *Seeds For Liberation*, followed by a Q&A with filmmakers.
Time: 7 p.m., Nov. 14
Cost: $17.85
Details: https://tinyurl.com/seeds-for-liberation and https://www.seedsforliberationmovie.com
Venue: Starlight Terrace Cinemas, 28901 S. Western Ave., Rancho Palos Verdes

RANDOM Happening

[Happening, from p. 11]
Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Nov. 14
Cost: Free. No advance registration required
Details: pvplc.org
Venue: White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve, 1600 W. Paseo del Mar, San Pedro

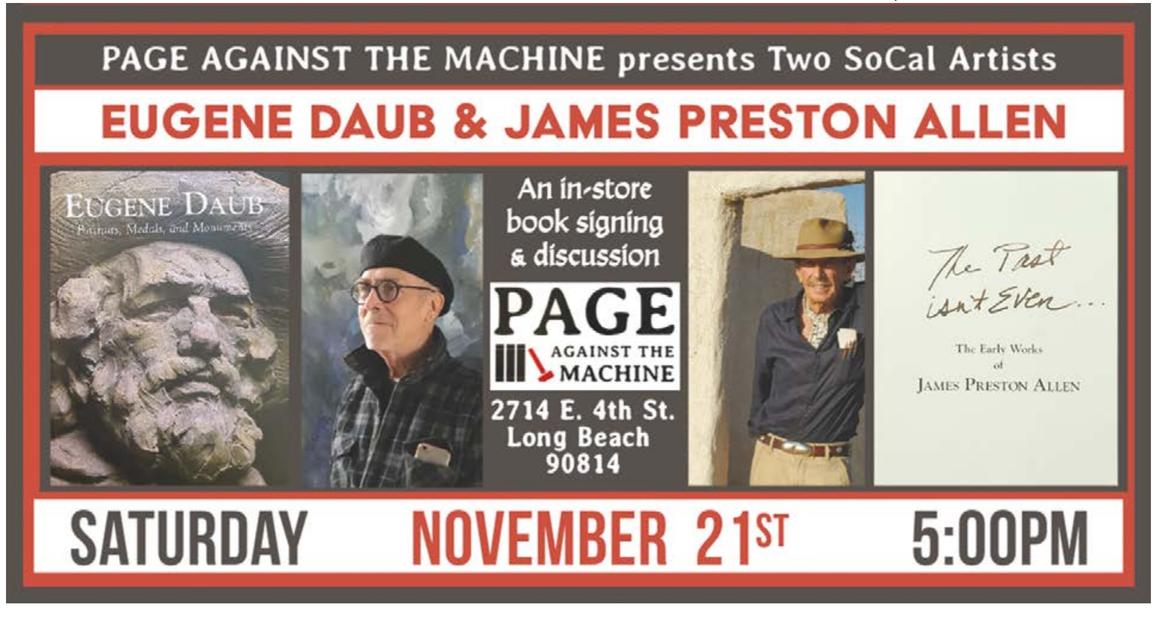
Angels Gate Fall Open Studios 2026
Get ready for the fall 2026 Open Studios Day at Angels Gate Cultural Center, Nov. 21. The semi-annual Open Studios is a free, all-ages event that provides the public a glimpse into the process, art, and lives of local artists who create at the center.

AGCC hosts one of the largest studio artist programs in the region with a diverse range of artistic disciplines including ceramics, photography, printmaking, writing, sculpture, videography, music, and painting. This self-guided tour of artist studios provides a unique opportunity to interact with the artists and purchase works of art.

Participate in an all-ages art workshop from 12 to 5 p.m., and watch AGCC's Teen Mural Club live, painting its latest large-scale artwork.

AGCC Studio Artists include: Adam Gaxiola, Andrea Lien, Ann Weber, Anna Erneholm, Ashton S. Phillips, Candice Gawne, Catherine Burce, Da Aie Park, Daniel Porras, Deborah Wright, Delora Bertsch, Dennis Keeley, Elizabeth Casuga, Elyse Pignolet, Emma Rault, Fafnir Adamites, Frank Rodriguez, Gil Mares, Henry Krusoe, Jesse Small, Joe Bariele, Jon Nakamura, June Edmonds, Karla Diaz, Kim Kei, Larin Sullivan, Leah Shane Dixon, Lisa Diane Wedgeworth, Yuichiro Roy Kunisaki, Lowell Nickel, Lucinda Rudolph, Lynn Doran, Marco Schindelmann, Melodie Reay, Mike Watt, Nancy Voegeli-Curran, Perry Okimoto, Phoebe Barnum, Regina Herod, Rene LaRue, Robert Alexander, Scott Anger, Soft Chick, Syracuse residency students, Taylor Crisp, Tianlu Chen, Vanessa Madrid, Yoon Jin Kim, and Yozmit The DogStar.

Open Studios
Time: 12 to 5 p.m., Nov. 21
Cost: Free
Details: https://tinyurl.com/AGCC-Open-Studios-fall
Venue: Angels Gate Cultural Center, 3601 S. Gaffey St., San Pedro



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Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. 2026209231
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SUPER CHURROS CALIFORNIA, 425 N MCDONALD, WILMINGTON, CA 90744. County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): Silvia Feison, 425 N MCDONALD, WILMINGTON, CA 90744. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant(s) started doing business on 04/1993. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). S/ Silvia Feison, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/30/2026. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days
after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/23/2026

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. 2026207459
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WILMINGTON TEEN CENTER, 612 WEST "E" STREET, WILMINGTON, CA 90744. County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): HARBOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. 707 WEST "C" STREET, WILMINGTON, CA 90744. This business is conducted by a CORPORATION. The registrant(s) started doing business n/a. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). S/ MICHAEL HERRERA, CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/29/2026. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days
after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/23/2026

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. 2026212848
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JOHNNY G'S BOATS, 852 W 9TH STREET, SAN PEDRO, CA 90731. County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): JOHN MARSHALL GRIMES II. 852 W 9TH STREET, SAN PEDRO, CA 90731. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant(s) started doing business n/a. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). S/ JOHN MARSHALL GRIMES, OWNER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/06/2026. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days
after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in
[continued on following page]

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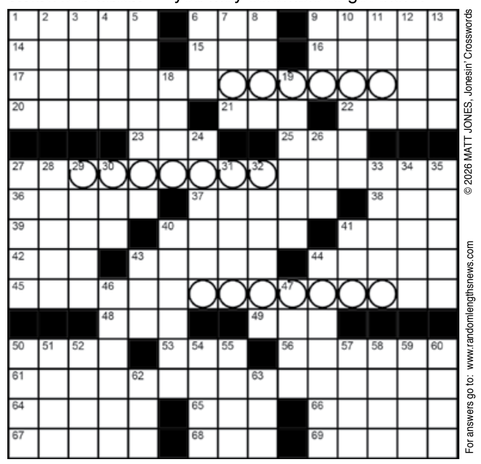
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"There's a Catch"— you may scramble to get there.



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For answers go to: www.randomlengthsnews.com

Across
1. Enewetak, e.g.
6. "Super" interest group
9. Assumed a role
14. TV chef Bastianich
15. Web address, familiarly
16. Flying waterfowl
17. Determining direction
20. "Death Becomes Her" costar
21. Big-eyed barn bird
22. Richards played by Pedro Pascal in "The Fantastic Four: First Steps"
23. Air travel delayer
25. Nice reply?
27. Underwater projectile system
36. Outwit, in a way
37. Bachelorette party, in the U.K.
38. Soccer stadium shout
39. Supposing
40. Jason of the "American Pie" films
41. Additions
42. Magritte's "The ___ of Man"
43. Night watch
44. "All good here"
45. Their syllabi may involve a reading list
48. Abbr. after an attorney's name
49. ___ Lanka
50. Be boastful
53. "Cocoon" transport
56. Burdens
61. Difficult (and a hint to the challenge of interpreting the circles in the grid)
64. More than apologize
65. Painting medium
66. Funny bone's nerve
67. ___ straw
68. Pen variety
69. Histories

Down
1. "The Sound of Music" backdrop
2. Pinball fail
3. Funk
4. Low-cal, on a label
5. Library penalty
6. Bit of "Bob's Burgers" menu humor
7. 2012 Oscar winner for Best Picture
8. Crab's grabber
9. Some time ___
10. Former "Today" host Katie
11. Went really fast
12. "To be" in Latin
13. Monopoly card
18. Obsolete music holder
19. Storm warnings
24. Be graceful, per a Michelle Obama quote
26. Game with 108 cards
27. Poke fun at
28. "Come on down!" announcer Johnny
29. Feeling regret
30. Adobe file ext.
31. Aboveboard
32. Trigonometry measurements
33. Provide with quarters?
34. "I'm hunting wabbits" speaker
35. Sits for a bit
40. Lobster soup
41. ["I can't believe it"]
43. "___ for Vengeance" (Grafton book)
44. Freezing over
46. All-time great
47. Elvis's middle name
50. Say too much
51. "The ___ of Spring"
52. "Don't Matter" singer
54. Lily pad occupant
55. "Garfield" dog
57. Home of the Bruins
58. ___ serif fonts
59. State of pIE?
60. Former political divs.
62. "Over here!"
63. Under the weather

RLN Bulletin Board
RANDOM LENGTHS NEWS

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[Blue, from p. 1]

Blue Tsunami

including Georgia's and Florida's houses, which they haven't held since before the 2004 election.

It was an anti-system election:

• It was the most expensive election ever—up to $12 billion—but dark money proved counterproductive. Badly outspent candidates won up and down the ballot.

• Trillionaire Elon Musk spent half a billion dollars with nothing to show for it.

• Six DSA candidates were elected to the House: Darializa Avila Chevalier and Claire Valdez in NYC; Angela Gonzales-Torres here in LA; Melat Kiros in Colorado; Donavan McKinney in Michigan; and Chris Rabb in Pennsylvania.

• America's two largest cities will now have DSA mayors, along with Washington, D.C. (Janeese Lewis George) and Providence, Rhode Island (David Morales). Here in LA, Nithya Raman is possibly headed to a double-digit victory with almost the entire Democratic establishment arrayed against her.

• Big idea fighters won the most pro-Trump districts—the kinds of districts that usually produce compromise-minded moderates. In rural Tennessee, Victoria Broderick flipped the most pro-Trump district this year (with Trump missing by 24.3%), with no party support, no ads, and a total campaign budget under $100,000. Political scientist Adam Bonica summarized her positions: "Medicare for All; pro-Roe; openly queer; backs trans rights; no corporate or AIPAC money." Bonica lists five other candidates who swung double-digit Trump districts with little money (only one spent over $1 million) and calls for big change.



The 2026 midterm elections delivered sweeping Democratic gains in Congress, governors' races and state legislatures, while elevating a diverse slate of candidates who challenged conventional party politics. Pictured above, from left, are Texas governor-elect Gina Hinojosa, Georgia governor-elect Keisha Lance Bottoms and Kansas senator-elect the Rev. Adam Hamilton. Graphic by Terelle Jerricks.

It was a map-redrawing election—most notably in the South and Mid-West.

• In Georgia and Texas Democrats swept all statewide executive offices and flipped the state houses, while also winning US senate races by double digits.

• In Kansas, Democrats won a U.S. Senate seat for the first time since 1932. They won the governors race for a third consecutive time for thee first time since 1972.

• In Mississippi, Democrats are poised to win a U.S. Senate seat for the first time since 1982

• In South Carolina, Democrats won a U.S. Senate seat for the first time in two decades.

• In North Carolina, Democrats won a U.S. Senate seat for the first time in a decade, and appear headed to win 10 House seats with a map gerrymandered for the GOP to win 10-4.

It was a diversity election:

• In Georgia, Kiesha Lance Bottoms became America's first female Black governor.

• In Texas, Gina Hinojosa became the state's first Latina governor.

• In New Mexico Deb Haaland was elected the first female Native American governor.

• In Michigan Abdul El-Sayed was elected the first Muslim U.S. senator.

• In Minnesota, Peggy Flannigan became the first-ever female Native-American senator, and in Alaska Mary Peltola is poised to become the second.

• In Mississippi Scott Colom became the first African-American U.S. senator from that state since Reconstruction.

• In South Carolina, Annie Andrews became the first woman elected U.S. senator from that state.

It was an election that saw the resurgence of the religious left.

• In Kansas, Democrats elected Rev. Adam Hamilton to the U.S. Senate. He is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, the largest United Methodist congregation in the United States.

• In Texas, Democrats elected James Talarico to the US Senate. He's a former seminarian who made his religious faith a key element of his race, most notably the injunction "love thy neighbor" as an antidote to the politics of division and demonization.

Also in Texas, Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes III, was elected in to represent the 30th congressional district. He's ordained in the National Baptist Convention.

In Iowa, Rev. Sarah Trone Garriott was elected to represent the third congressional district. She's ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a mainline Christian tradition.

The election was all these things and more. So perhaps the biggest post-election question of all is what will Democrats do with that anti-system energy? Try to contain it? Or put it to reconstructive use?

Fascism may have a string of defeats recently around the world—in Serbia, Brazil, and now the United States, but the global state of democracy is still in peril. "Never before has there been so many countries moving back from democracy at the same time," Stafford Lindberg, founding director of the V-Dem Institute told *Random Lengths*. "Generally speaking, the 1930s was 15 years, we've already experienced 25 years." V-Dem's annual report this year warned that America had seen a more rapid deterioration of its democracy than any other country during this period, but said the mid-terms offered hope, since the first election after a strongman takes power is the best opportunity for reversal.

But we've already been through this before with Trump—both in 2018 and 2020. The problem with those victories was that they didn't really restore what Trump had destroyed, much less strengthen and improve things so that he couldn't return again. Incremental improvements and a "return to normalcy" that has already failed too many people has not proved a viable deterrent to fascist movements worldwide, and there's no reason to think it will here.

So what form can big, transformational change take? In many respects, it will have to wait at the federal level until the next election, and the next two years are more a time of preparation, laying the groundwork. At the state and local level, it's a different matter. Officeholders there are closer to the people, and can start making changes that impact them right away.

There's also the level and perspective of political organizing. Here, political scientist Suzanne Mettler has something very important to say. Her most recent book, "Rural vs. Urban" examines what she argues is the most troubling political divide in America, but also the most capable of being overcome. In fact, she shows that up until 1994 a majority of the most rural 20% of congressional districts were represented by Democrats—a legacy of the New Deal and it's multi-pronged agenda to bridge the rural-urban divide, even as market economic forces were threatening to leave rural America behind.

As recently as 2006 and 2008 Howard Dean's 50-state strategy supported party-building that reached down to the party chair level and helped Democrats regain that majority, before it was wiped out in the Tea Party wave. Now Mettler see's a chance to rebuild.

"A lot of people have thought that the rural urban divide is just like a natural occurrence and inevitable," Mettler told *Random Lengths*. "Republicans were kind of resting on their laurels, thinking that because here they were getting all the support from rural voters, but not really responding to them with public policy that helps them out," she said, while "Democrats have been ignoring rural voters just thinking, it's impossible for them to support us. They just they won't."

But to many people's surprise, she said, "You got a crop of candidates this time around, who were unwilling to accept that, and who worked hard in rural places and therefore you know the national tailwinds together with their efforts allowed them to flip seats." Some of those were on Bonica's list mentioned above.

"That's the first big take away," from the election she said: "the rural/urban divide is not natural and inevitable, and in this election shows that."

"The second big take away is this creates now the potential for a rural/urban governing coalition in Congress," she said. "It could be very effective and it could respond to the priorities of the vast majority of Americans, if such a coalition comes together. And so this is a really promising moment."

Most or all of what they propose may be vetoed the next two years. But that only produces the seeds for further change.

DBAs

[from previous page]
this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/23/2026

Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. 2026213263
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GRATEFUL GARDENING, 218 S LA Alameda Ave., San Pedro, CA 90731. County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): Eriberto Reyes, 218 S LA Alameda Ave., San Pedro, CA 90731. This business is conducted by an INDIVIDUAL. The registrant(s) started doing business N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). S/ Eriberto Reyes, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 10/06/2026. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days
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Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. 20266755499
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AFFORDABLE YACHTS, 2253 Martin, #408, Irvine, CA 92612. County of ORANGE COUNTY. Registered owner(s): Kimberly Helen Levern, 2253 Martin, #408, Irvine, CA 92612. This business is conducted by an INDIVIDUAL. The registrant(s) started doing business N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000). S/ Kimberly Helen Levern, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of ORANGE County on 11/03/2026. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days
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Fictitious Business Name Statement
File No. 2026237517
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HARBOR VIEW TOWNHOMES,1536 W 25TH STREET, OFC #315, SAN PEDRO, CA 90732. County of LOS ANGELES. Registered owner(s): LORRAIN ARENS, 459 W 38TH STREET, SAN PEDRO, CA 90731. MICHAEL RISO, 1536 W 25TH STREET, OFC #315, SAN PEDRO, CA 90732. This business is conducted by an UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION OTHER THAN A PARTNERSHIP. The registrant(s) started doing business11/20/26. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000). S/ MICHAEL RISO, GENERAL PARTNER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of ORANGE County on 11/10/2026. NOTICE- In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days
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