



United Against Hate Walk Shows Our Strength

Dear Democrat,

Kyle Rittenhouse's acquittal and the all-too-possible overturning of *Roe v. Wade* are devastating blows to us. But it makes us all the more determined to fight back, because the consequences of not doing so are unthinkable.

Our strength when we mobilize was evident at last month's United Against Hate Walk in Los Gatos. Town leaders called for the Walk to stand up to those who scrawled swastikas on the town's Jewish Community Center, threatened its Filipino-American mayor, and spray-painted racist and homophobic slurs across the high school campus. In solidarity, [more than 2,000 people showed up](#).



Among the 2,000 were some 20 marchers from SCC Dems' newly-chartered [Jewish Democratic Club of Silicon Valley](#). They came to affirm the values of inclusion, safety and identity, and they left inspired.

"We were embraced by Asian Pacific Islanders and so many other groups that chanted with songs and slogans, all against hate in our community," club president Dorene Kastelman said.

We dedicate this newsletter to highlighting some of the groups in our local party who, like the JDCSV, are using their voice to fight back, and to build a better future for us all.

Assyrian Democrats organize



For four years, Tony Khoshaba and his Assyrian-American friends had been watching with increasing alarm as the far right gained strength, and in 2020, they decided to act. But how?

They wanted a vehicle for promoting their progressive agenda, and ultimately, they decided their best option was to join forces with the Santa Clara County Democratic Party.

This July, they got the [Assyrian Democrats of the Bay Area](#) chartered under the SCC Dems' umbrella. Since then, ADBA has used its platform to speak out for reproductive rights and against the Republican recall. It has

promoted solutions to climate change. And tonight at 7, they are co-hosting a [Zoom](#) on Amah Mutsun efforts to steward their tribal lands.

The Assyrian Democrats of the Bay Area are progressives because they know what it's like to be marginalized and persecuted, Khoshaba said, referring to the Assyrian-American community's roots in the Middle East:

"There's a danger of becoming too nationalist. We don't want to go there."

Central Valley phone bank by the numbers

We are at risk of losing the House in 2022, and there's a congressional district in the southern Central Valley that could tip the balance. It's in our backyard, and that's why, since August, we have been phone banking into this area, reaching out to independent voters in partnership with the Kings and Kern County Democratic parties.

Here's a by-the-numbers look at our push, provided by the phone bank team's technical wizard and keeper-of-the-stats Jonathan Hull:

Started phone banking into Central Valley: August 17

Next phone bank: [December 12](#)

Number of phone banks held so far: 13

Number of independent voters called: Nearly 5,000

Number of conversations that resulted: About 350

If the number of conversations seems small, consider that in 2020, Democrat T.J. Cox lost re-election in this district by [a margin of only 1,522 votes](#), out of more than 170,000 cast. He lost to a Republican who shamelessly voted to overturn the presidential election results.

This is what we are fighting against, and we expect to hold additional phonebanks in 2022.

Winter coat drive for the homeless

Our winter coat drive for the homeless has netted more than 70 coats and jackets, to be distributed by Hope for the Unhoused in Milpitas. Due to the drive's success, we have extended it through December. To donate, please bring new or gently used coats and jackets to the party headquarters on Moorpark Avenue in San Jose. Click [here](#) for more information.

This month, we also encourage you to [donate money to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley](#), to help buy nutritious food this holiday season for those in our area facing food insecurity. Volunteers are also needed to sort and distribute food.

Looking back on 2021

Our party's commitment to community and democracy brought many hard-earned victories in 2021.

Nationally, we saw Joe Biden inaugurated, his confirmation of federal judges and his rolling back of a slough of Trump executive orders, all of which helped un-do the damage of the previous presidency.

The [national vaccination rate](#) grew to 71% for first doses.

Biden delivered on two key pieces of his platform: a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package and a \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill. House passage last month of his Build Back Better Act moved him one step closer to delivering on the third.

The nation's economy grew by more than 6%, the unemployment rate dropped to [pre-pandemic lows](#), and more than 5.6 million new jobs were created. Yes, inflation is a concern but it was inevitable given pandemic-induced global supply chain shortages, and inflation will pass along with the shortages.

Locally, SCC Dems raised \$17,000 for Second Harvest Food Bank. We helped get two Democratic senators elected in Georgia. We steered people in Santa Clara and Kings counties to information on rent relief and getting vaccinated.

We fought Republican voter suppression laws in Arizona, helped defeat the Republican recall of Gov. Newsom, and got an early start in midterm election campaigning with our Central Valley phone banks.

Much to be thankful for, more to fight for.

Find your voice. Use your voice. Make change. Be the change.

And happy holidays!

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