



Newsletter of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County—February 2017

Inauguration Day January 20, 2017

by Linda Johnson

THE DAY WAS FINALLY HERE!!!!

It was a chilly, damp day but spirits were high. My son, Sean, and I had our orange tickets tucked away in zip lock bags and wore layers of clothes as we rode the red line Metro to DC at 5:00 am. Trump supporters from across Florida were texting their high-five icons and their excitement that the day was finally here. Law student, Sean, and I had discussed the campaign in the months leading up to November 8 and always planned on celebrating together on Inauguration Day in DC . . . and we were on our way!

Friendly fellow Trump supporters from Tennessee and New York joined us as we claimed our standing room spot. We staked out a place on a rise and had a great, although not close up, view of the podium. My new friend from New York expressed how concerned and anxious he has been for

the last eight years. Now, he has real hope for the survival of the U.S. principles.

A grand but chilly time was had by all for the six plus hours we stood there together.

Senator Schumer was heartily booed, but I did not hear those boos on the news reports. We watched as all the dignitaries arrived. How did that handsome military escort of First Lady Melania Trump get so lucky to land that job?

We all grinned and shared high fives as President Trump took his oath and delivered his speech. I could not see reactions from those sitting behind him. There must have been some consternation, but the audience was elated.

As we left the area, the streets were jammed with happy, polite celebrators. Someone started chanting “USA, USA,”

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and I joined in. The lady that began the chant and I exchanged looks . . . it was none other than our own Linda Stoch and her husband Russell!!!!

Later in the week I took a stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue. I came upon The Trump International Hotel. The lobby was magnificent. After reading the history of the Old Post Office Building, its fall into disrepair and the plans to destroy it, I thought, “Wow, if this man, Donald Trump,

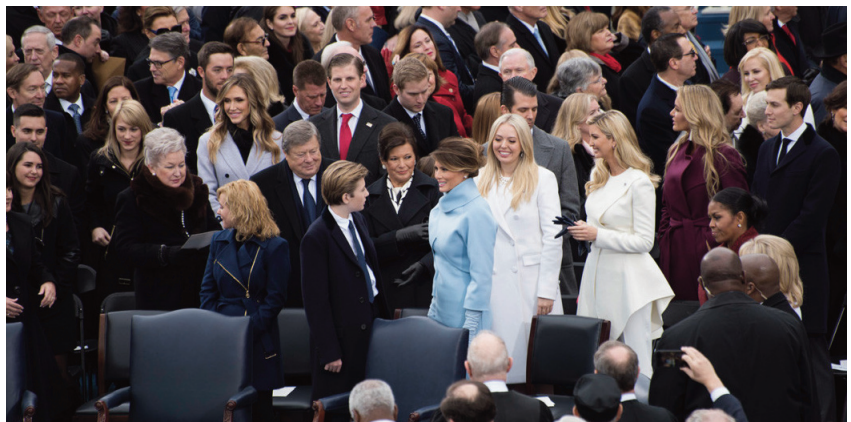
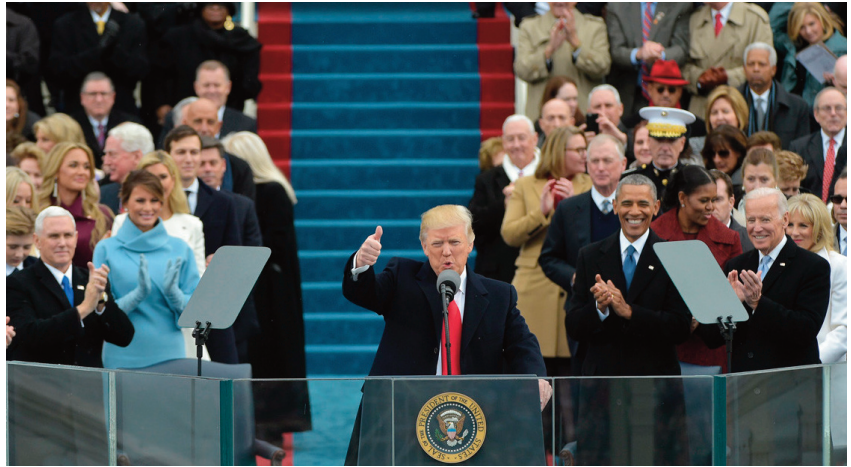
only had saving the Post Office Building to his credit, that in itself would be an admirable achievement. He and his family can only have given up a comfortable, private, luxurious lifestyle because of love.

Love of United States of America.

Why else would anyone give up the prestige he had earned only to submit his life and his family lives to stressful schedules and the scrutiny (mostly unfair) of the press?”

God Bless President Trump

God Bless America.



Linda Johnson and her son Sean waiting for the Inauguration festivities to start.



G.O.A.T.

By Sid Dinerstein
January 20, 2017



It was G.O.A.T. day at my granddaughter's middle school. What's a G.O.A.T.? Well, as everyone under the age of fifteen knows, G.O.A.T. means Greatest Of All Time. My granddaughter, being a New Englander, donned her Tom Brady jersey and hopped on the school bus. I tried to stop her. I asked: "Greatest of all time? Where's the orange combover wig?" Because as everyone now knows, Donald Trump is the

greatest President-elect of all time. And while I didn't actually research the forty-four others, the list of President-elect Trump's accomplishments is impressive. Let's start with the economy.

It's morning in America. The Trump election has raised consumer confidence to a fifteen-year high. It pushed construction spending to a ten-year high. Small business optimism is soaring. And the stock market reached an all-time high. And then there are specific company stories. The kick-off was Carrier Corporation, canceling plans to build a factory in Mexico and keeping the jobs here. Eight years of President Obama chasing companies overseas, and President-elect Trump reversed the trend in a few weeks. Then the dam broke. Ford will build here. So will General Motors and Chrysler/Fiat and Softbank (Sprint) and IBM. Then came the retailers. Amazon is increasing their investment here. So is Wal Mart. And Alibaba, China's version of Amazon, is bringing big bucks to Trump's America. On the trade front, Congress stopped the Trans-Pacific deal. Both Canada and Mexico indicated they are ready to renegotiate NAFTA.

And how about government spending, or should I say government overspending? President-elect says he doesn't want four billion dollars worth of Air Force Ones. Boeing said they would negotiate. He said the F-35's were too expensive. Lockheed said they would negotiate. He said we pay too much for the United Nations (in exchange for so little support). It's on their agenda. He said NATO members must pay their fair share. They said okay. Indeed, for the first time in seventy years Europe is having serious thoughts about paying for their own defense. Remember, this was all done before the swearing in.

While the economic and spending accomplishments got the biggest headlines, the more important and dramatic successes were international, and spectacular. The great falafel is this: President-elect Trump ended the civil war in Syria.

How? By openly questioning the goals, makeup and leadership of the rebels. And then he made it clear that arming this group in an attempt at "regime change" might not be in the United States' best interest. President Obama openly armed the Syrian rebels knowing they couldn't win. There was no limit to how many Syrians Obama would allow to die just so he could "lead from behind." That ended on Election Day. The election of Trump meant the end of the civil war. No arms, no war. Everyone knew it was over. The blood on Obama's hands? 300,000 Syrians who died thinking Obama really supported them. President-elect Trump got the Syrian rebels the deal they should have asked for years earlier, safe passage out.

President-elect Trump killed Fidel Castro. Stop laughing. It may be true. After all, other than knowing that Castro was ninety and no longer spry, we know nothing about his death. In the absence of a believable and verifiable story I crafted my own. It goes like this: It's early morning on Wednesday, November 9th. Castro's *jefe-de-staff* tiptoes into his bedroom to wake him. He touches Castro on the shoulder leans down and whispers in his ear: "*El Commandante*, Trump won." Instant heart attack. Two weeks later Castro was gone. "Prove it," you say? "Prove me wrong," I say. That's my story and I'm sticking with it.

Yes, there's more. Angela Merkel is kicking 100,000 Muslims out of her country (she says). President Obama's anti-Semitic United Nations resolution was almost derailed by President-elect Trump. But not quite. Merry Christmas is back. So is Happy Hanukkah. Happy holidays is fading.

The transition is now over. President-elect Trump, the Greatest Of All Time, is now President Trump, starting over and writing a new story. My job is to get my granddaughter to "think big and dream bigger," as per instructions from now President Trump. Yes, Tom Brady is a legitimate G.O.A.T. But if President Trump is successful, America will be the past and future G.O.A.T.

Sid Dinerstein served as Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County from 2002 to 2012. A leader with a passion for Republican politics, Sid leads by example, motivating teams and uniting diverse groups to achieve a common goal. With a passion for promoting charter schools, Sid was honored by Inlet Grove Community Charter High School earlier this year as "Charter School Advocate." He authored Adults Only: For Those Who Love Their Country More Than Their Party in 2007, a book that was a finalist for the 2009 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Sid has been married to Esther since 1967, and they have two daughters, two sons-in-law and two granddaughters.

Talking Points

Why Blacks Don't Vote for Republicans ... and Why Donald Trump Can Change That

By Larry P. Horist



As we celebrate Black History month, one of the most vexing political realities is the overwhelming support the Democratic Party receives from black voters. On November 8th, eight percent of black voters cast ballots for Donald Trump. This was about average for Republican presidential candidates in recent years, and quite respectable in view of media-driven

anticipation that The Donald would receive less than three percent.

For almost 50 years, I have been deeply involved in the black community and an outspoken proponent of Republican outreach to the black community. It started in my college days in the 1960s when, as president of the Knox College Young Republicans, I brought black students into leadership. Following graduation, I joined with a young black man named Connie Mack Higgins and a young Hispanic man named Jose Carlos Gomez in forming a Republican rainbow coalition long before Jesse Jackson popularized the term.

Through our efforts, Higgins was elected vice president of the Illinois Young Republicans—the first black elected to leadership—and was appointed by Nixon to head up the minority business office of the Small Business Administration.

I have spent considerable time in the inner city investigating and exposing poor housing conditions, educational deficiencies and joblessness. As executive director of the City Club of Chicago, I launched numerous programs to fight black oppression. While living in Evanston, Illinois, I co-founded the biracial Evanston Coalition with a local black activist friend.

I often jest that if you know anyone who has spoken in more black churches than me, they are called “pastor.” I offer this biography as a foundation for my opinion as to why I believe that the GOP does not get more black votes. There are several reasons.

1. Republicans simply do not try—at least not until Trump. Campaigns will privately say that it is not worth the effort and financial resources. Why the Republican Party organizations at the national and local levels have not developed effective programs to recruit blacks is more a matter of shortsightedness and incompetence. I have heard the protests to the contrary, but the answer is in the vote totals.

2. Republicans do not fight back. On their website history, the Democratic Party claims that “for more than 200 years, we have fought for civil rights.” That is an audacious lie that is widely believed and so easily refuted. But, has the GOP demanded that it be removed as a means to open a true public dialogue on race? Nope. Did the Republican leadership pitch in when a number of black students demanded the removal of the Woodrow Wilson name at Princeton? Nope. The Democrat false narrative on civil rights is what Lincoln called an ill-founded widely held belief that has the impact of fact.
3. Republicans settle for window dressing. Yes, there are black conservative Republicans—and the number is growing. But even at that, grassroots black Republicans tend to look like they just returned from the country club. Too many Republicans believe they are reaching out to the black community by having a black friend or having pictures taken with black people. If the Party is to engage with the black community in a meaningful way, it needs to connect with the oppressed inner city blacks who are more likely to raise eyebrows walking into one of the “better clubs.” Ghetto-ized blacks do not look like they just graduated from college because they never had that opportunity—and they are the ones who most need the Republican Party’s vision and policies of America as an opportunity society.
4. Too many Republicans believe that the way to win over black voters is to talk and act like Democrats. They embrace the Democrats’ false narrative of generational welfare as civil rights. They vote for the failed social welfare legislation that has cost trillions of dollars without discernible benefit to the urban segregated black community, to the Republican Party or to the nation. It is no small irony that the Democrats succeed by offering blacks the addictive economic narcotic of welfare while denying them the inalienable constitutional rights of equal justice under the law, safe streets, job opportunities and, above all, access to education that can produce career level jobs.
5. Republicans do not know their history. It is not enough to talk about Abraham Lincoln. The long history of the Democratic Party’s institutional racism started in its defense of slavery, followed by the imposition of *de jure* segregation in the south. Democrat racism exists to this day in the segregated urban centers long ruled over by their political machines—cities where black frustration

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and anger boil over generation after generation. Still, few Republicans will prosecute the case against the Democratic Party.

6. Republican black leaders too often focus on the personal benefits of black tokenism. Black Republican leadership is important, but they tend to come and go without much impact on the voting demographics of the greater black community. While the GOP has black liaisons and officials at all levels, it is almost impossible to find a Republican meeting with more than a spattering of black attendees—and even the GOP’s black clubs and organizations are poorly attended. The GOP does not go into the heart of the impoverished and segregated black communities run by Democrat political machines.
7. It is sad to say, but too many Republican leaders believe that any attempt to bring the black community into the GOP is futile. In fact, it is essential to the future existence of the Party. The Democratic Party’s *de facto* racism against urban black America has given the GOP an enormous opportunity that is largely unrecognized by Republican leadership at all levels.

Since the evidential history of Democrat oppression of the black community is so overwhelming, and the Repub-

lican Party has been steadfast in its support of constitutional civil rights, the only explanation for the black community’s allegiance to the Democratic Party is the utter failure of the Republican Party to make the case.

President-elect Donald Trump is the first Republican presidential candidate to make addressing the plight of the impoverished inner city minority communities a major commitment. Time will tell if he has the determination and the right strategies, but it is the most hopeful sign I have seen in more than 50 years. Breaking off 15 to 25 percent of the black vote could give the GOP national election dominance for the next 50 years, effectively putting an end to the welfare dependency alliance between Democrats and the black community that began under Franklin Roosevelt.

Larry Horist, is a conservative Republican with an extensive background in political issues. Clients of his consulting firm have included such conservative icons as Steve Forbes and Milton Friedman, and he has served as a consultant to the White House under Presidents Nixon and Reagan. He speaks and writes extensively on political issues and has testified before numerous legislative bodies, including the U. S. Congress. He is an award winning debater, and has lectured at such institutions as Harvard University, Northwestern University, Florida Atlantic University and Hope College. His insightful and sometimes controversial commentaries appear frequently on the editorial pages of newspapers across the nation.



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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY**

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Mission Statement

The Republican Party of Palm Beach County is committed to promoting Republican ideals and principles; recruiting and electing qualified candidates for public office; developing a grassroots organization that will motivate the electorate to vote; and raising the funds necessary to complete these objectives.

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Democrats Challenge Missing Mail Ballot Procedures

By William J. Skinner

On October 3, 2016 the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and Florida Democratic Party (FDP) filed a federal lawsuit in Tallahassee to contest the lack of procedure to provide a cure of mail-in ballots found to have a signature that is different than the signature on file. These mail-in ballots are not counted under the procedures complained about in this case.

Mail-in ballots with no signature whatever are treated by allowing the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) to notify the voter there was no signature. If the procedure is followed, the voter might have the vote counted.

By October 25, 2016 the court issued a brief order stating: “On October 16, 2016, this Court issued a Preliminary Injunction ordering that voters who submit vote-by-mail ballots with mismatched signatures must have the same opportunity to cure that is provided to voters who submit unsigned vote-by-mail ballots. ECF No. 34. The parties are directed to file a notice by Friday, October 28, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. if they require any further action in this case. If not, this matter will be closed on Monday, October 31, 2016.”

The parties filed a Joint Notice on October 28, followed the same day by another Notice from plaintiffs’ attorney, Mark Herron, Esq. of Messer Caparello, P.A. in Tallahassee, asking for a status conference to be set after the November 8 election.

District Judge Mark E. Walker then set a telephone conference for noon on December 12, 2016. Thus a pre-election decision was avoided on the merits of the case.

In the Complaint, the plaintiffs allege that:

“1. . . . Plaintiffs bring the instant lawsuit to protect this right and to prevent the disenfranchisement of thousands of Florida voters whose right to vote has been disenfranchised in past elections, and will be in the upcoming 2016 general election, unreasonably and unduly burdened by a standardless system of assessing signature authenticity on vote-by-mail ballots (formerly called “absentee” ballots, which fails to provide affected voters an opportunity to cure their ballots.

2. Vote-by-mail voting in Florida is on the rise. In the 2012 general election, over 28 percent of all ballots cast were submitted by mail. The use of vote-by-mail increased nearly six percentage points in 2012 over what it had been in 2008, with over 2.37 million vote-by-mail ballots cast in 2012, out of 8.5 million total votes cast. In the 2008 general election, the number of vote-by-mail ballots returned was 1.85 million. And while the turnout in the 2014 midterm election was significantly lower overall than in 2012, in 2014, 1.9 million vote-by-mail ballots were returned for that election.

3. The use of vote-by-mail in the 2016 primary elections evidences the continuation of this trend, with more than half a million vote-by-mail ballots returned in advance of the March 15, 2016 primary election. *See* Steve Bousquet, *With half-million absentee ballots turned in for Florida’s Primary, Miami-Dade a focal point for problems*, Miami Herald (Feb. 25, 2016), <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article62533382.html>. The forthcoming general election promises to be no different.

4. However, each general election cycle, thousands of vote-by-mail ballots are rejected by county canvassing boards

for not conforming to the statutory requirements for those ballots. County canvassing boards rejected nearly one percent of all vote-by-mail ballots returned in 2012—more than 23,000 ballots. One cause for vote-by-mail ballot rejection is a determination that a voter’s signature, executed across the envelope containing the ballot, does not match the signature in the voter’s registration file. This is referred to as “signature mismatch.”

5. Rejection rates for vote-by-mail ballots vary significantly across Florida’s counties, underscoring the arbitrary and standardless nature of the statewide process for assessing whether a voter’s signature on the vote-by-mail ballot envelope matches the signature on the voter’s relevant registration document.

6. In the upcoming general election, not all vote-by-mail ballots that are initially rejected will be treated equally with regard to the ability of a voter to “cure” his or her ballot. Voters who fail to sign their ballots at all are provided an opportunity to cure that defect; but voters whose ballots are rejected for signature mismatch have no recourse. Their votes simply are not counted.”

Complaint, 1-4

Counsel for plaintiffs are Mark Herron and Robert J. Tefler III of Messer Caparello, P.S in Tallahassee and Marc E. Elias, Bruce V. Spiva, Elisabeth C. Frost, and Amanda R. Callais of Perkins Coie, LLP in Washington, D.C.

The Secretary of State filed an Answer to the Complaint that begins with: “The independent county supervisors of elections and canvassing boards are solely and exclusively responsible for assessing ballot signature authenticity. The Secretary is not involved in this process whatsoever, and the Secretary does not implement or control the standards employed by those independent county supervisors of elections and canvassing boards.”

2. The plaintiffs’ allegations are based upon records that are open to the public, and those public records speak for themselves.”

Answer, 2

The Secretary’s Answer also pleaded sovereign immunity, lack of Article III standing, lack of associational standing, and failure to join indispensable parties. The Secretary also filed a Motion to Dismiss.

Counsel for the Secretary are Adam S. Tanenbaum and David A. Fugett, Florida Department of State.

This case may be dismissed in a few months unless plaintiffs can give the Court more substance to act upon. However, the lack of a procedure for curing mismatched mail-in ballot signatures is something that the Florida Legislature can work on before the next election. The 2000 election was another instance of “standardless” counting of ballots. Florida voters deserve better.

News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County



Republican Club of the Palm Beaches Committeeman Joe Budd Highlights January Luncheon

Posted by Fred Scheibl on January 25, 2017

Our January meeting was anchored by newly-elected state committeeman Joe Budd.

Recently returned from Washington after having witnessed the swearing in of our new President, Joe related some anecdotes from a day filled with exuberance (like standing in line next to Diamond and Silk), and interpreted Donald Trump's inauguration speech for us.

No one should be surprised at how Trump proceeds as President, as he has been remarkably consistent from the day of his announcement in June of 2015 right up to the executive orders he signed today. Joe was an early believer, jumping on the "Trump Train" in the summer of 2015 and serving as county Vice-Chair through the campaign.

Joe broke down the inaugural speech into five themes:

First, was an indictment of the DC establishment. He took direct aim at those seated around him and didn't pull any punches.

Second, was the intention to transfer power to the people.

Third, a list of the policies he intends to enact—improve our schools, make neighborhoods safer, create jobs, stop the



Palm Beach County State Committeeman Joe Budd addressed the Republican Club of the Palm Beaches on January 25.

flow of drugs, insure fair trade and secure our borders. Anyone who is paying attention should note the progress on these fronts in the first days of the administration.

Fourth, a "New Vision." Joe saw biblical references in this part, specifically from the book of Haggai, which deals with the rebuilding of the temple after a period when the people had lost their way (2:18—"Consider now from this day forward").

And fifth, for all Americans, the beginnings of a national pride, where "we all bleed the same red blood of patriots."

Joe also spoke about the state party and that he has secured a seat on the board, which along with County Chair (and state vice-chair) Michael Barnett, Peter Feaman and Cindy Tindall, gives the county 4 votes out of 33.

At the conclusion of Joe's talk, past President Melissa Nash auctioned off some Inaugural paraphernalia that she brought back to raise money for the scholarship fund.

Next month's meeting on February 22 will feature County GOP Political Director Ryan Hnatiuk.

For those who live in Palm Beach Gardens, the club is co-sponsoring a candidate forum for the nine city council candidates at the Gardens branch of the county library. The meeting will start at 6:15 on Tuesday, February 28 and will be moderated by WJNO radio host Brian Mudd.



Club President Fran Hancock (left) displays Inauguration items being auctioned by Past President Melissa Nash.

News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County

Republican Federated Women of South Florida Celebrate the Chinese New Year at Their January 26 Meeting

On Thursday, January 26, the Republican Federated Women of South Florida welcomed their keynote speaker, Palm Beach County Commissioner **Steven Abrams**, who gave an update on County news and briefly discussed the County's status as a sanctuary city. Commissioner Abrams is always an entertaining and informative speaker, and he answered questions from the audience.

Next on the agenda was Palm Beach County GOP Chair **Michael Barnett**, who was recently elected Vice Chair of the Republican Party of Florida. Mike talked about the successes of the County Party, including an RPOF award for returned absentee ballots. He thanked everyone for their efforts in turning out the vote for Republicans in November.

As an added bonus, the attendees were treated to a show in celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rooster. Professional dancers and musicians performed several numbers, including a sword dance, that had the audience enthralled. The performers were terrific, and they all voted for Trump! Many thanks to the Palm Beach County chapter of the National Committee of Asian American Republicans for organizing it, and specifically **Xiaoqi Wang** and the Committee's Chair **Jon Deng**. It was a unique evening and one that will not soon be forgotten!

For information about the Republican Federated Women of South Florida, please contact President Rosemary O'Mara at rosemaryo625@aol.com.



County Commissioner Steven Abrams (left) and Palm Beach County GOP Chair Mike Barnett addressed the Republican Federated Women of South Florida at their January 26 meeting.



The Jean Pipes Award

The Jean Pipes Outstanding Republican Award was established in 1993 by the Republican Executive Committee of Palm Beach County to honor a woman who had dedicated over 55 years of her life to the Republican Party and its ideals. By naming this award after Jean Pipes, the REC set a standard of volunteerism which we can all strive to reach.

For the past 24 years the Party has been endowing the coveted Jean Pipes Award. This award was created to recognize and honor those individuals who exemplify selfless service and the perfect spirit of volunteerism. It is not meant to be a "volunteer of the year" award, but instead recognizes dedication to the Party over a long time. One woman and one man are honored each year, and paid staffers and past recipients are not eligible. The vote for this year's honorees will take place at the February 8 REC meeting, and the awards will be presented at the 2017 Lincoln Day Dinner, to be held at Mar-a-Lago on March 24.

Past award winners have been Helen Cluett, Carol "Sami" Abrich, Anne Roberts, David Hobin, Zena Mahler, Dave Robinson, Kathy Romani, Ed Buckley, Susan Ordway, Reeve Bright, Charlotte Wille, Ed Sheperd, Fran Chapin, Robb Robertson, Fran Hancock, Sid Dinerstein, Cheryl Mullings, John Early, Mary McCarty, John Apostol, Bonnie Re, Jack Furnari, Gay Gaines, Tom Sliney, Nancy Hogan, Peter Feaman, Joan Barnett, John Parsons, Helen Wilkes, Alan Bergstein, Sue Snowden, Bill Diamond, Linda Gore, Jay Goldfarb, Margi Helshien, George Blumel, Anita Carbone, Joe Budd, Claire Anderson Jones, Tom Wesley, Marie Hope Davis, Larry Snowden, Linda Stoch, Michael Barnett, Tami Donnally, and Steven Ledewitz.

Is Anarchy at Our Doorstep?

by Alan Bergstein

The chaos choreographers have been at work since day one after Election Day, well before President Trump's inauguration on January 20th, in order to organize all those radical organizations that were thrown for a loop by Hillary's crushing defeat. Their goal was to focus on issues which are at the core of the Democrat Party's platform such as abortion rights, immigration and support for Islamist causes and use them as pick-axes to the new administration. Georges Soros, CAIR, the ACLU, the Black Lives Matter crew, the Communist Party USA, the SEIU, the NEA and the AFT teacher unions, all collaborated to bring their shock troops out into the streets to undermine the new administration, not only in payback for their election defeat but to undermine and take down the Trump administration.

And let's not forget the mainstream media who flocked to the demonstrations with cameras at the ready to spread the gospel of these apparent housewives and ordinary Americans concerning their utter hatred at the "Nazi-like behavior" of our newly minted president, in office but a mere few days.

Initially these useful idiots were ordered out into the streets around the country to support abortion rights and then, without a blink, another massive one just popped up to fight the executive order that banned entry into our country from visitors from countries enmeshed in terror activities. Although announced boldly as "spontaneous," "spur of the moment" and "impromptu," these marches were well orchestrated with professional signs, permits and spokespeople all ready to strangely all mouth the same talking points to the ever ready, welcoming, supporting media reps.

But what are the real motives of the planners of these demonstrations? What do they actually want to accomplish? The purpose of these so-called rallies is basically to attack, discredit, paralyze and perhaps to force President Trump out of office prematurely. Representative John Lewis (D-GA) stoked the flames of hate by calling Trump's presidency "illegitimate." Some, listening to this black civil rights hero may feel it is their patriotic duty to "take down" this presidential imposter.

Madonna may have given some unhinged fan of hers an idea when she cried out that she wanted to "Blow up the White House." We're in dangerous, uncharted waters here. Former President Obama chimed in that, "I am heartened

by the level of engagement taking place in communities around the country." There is no doubt that shortly there will be physical casualties resulting from these mass demonstrations.

But let's examine another cause which should be of interest to us, that the radical element in our own society, in league with their Islamist partners are planning to spotlight with their now familiar, easily led-by-the-nose street demonstrators. President Trump will surely take up the matter of Israel in the very near future. His campaign promise to move our embassy to Jerusalem will have to be addressed shortly. And when he officially fulfills his promise, be prepared for these same crowds, this time reinforced by throngs of Muslims led by their imams and Islamist organizations to spearhead anti-Israel demonstrations throughout the country.

The recent outcries in support of the few Muslims coming from ravaged Middle East countries being stopped at our airports have whetted the rioting appetites of radicals ready to tear our cities apart. Most of the participants in the recent non-violent street demonstrations have been white women. However, when issues dealing with Israel and Palestine are acted upon by the White House, watch for the heretofore quiet local Muslim populations to rise up and emulate their cousins in France, England and throughout Europe. That's a problem our leaders in Washington should be considering now. We are concerned.

To sum up, we view the street demonstrations over the last two weeks as harbingers of planned anarchy not only against our president but against our way of life. We are a nation of laws. Those who did not vote for Obama in 2008 and 2012 never referred to him as "illegitimate," rioted in the streets against his many questionable decisions or demeaned his family or intelligence.

But we have now reached a tinderbox point with hundreds of thousands of Americans at the ready to continue their chipping away at our democracy and with it, our security and future. We fear for the goals of these anarchists which are to disrupt our way of life, perhaps with violence and chaos. We must stand strong against them in order to remain the freest, safest, most democratic country on earth.

Written for the Jewish Journal, February 1, 2017.

Book Review

Common Sense, Rights of Man, and Other Essential Writings of Thomas Paine, 20th Anniversary Edition, with an Introduction by Sidney Hook and a Foreword by Jack Fruchtman, Jr. New York: Signet Books, 2003. Paperback, 381 pp.

I read this book, *Common Sense, Rights of Man, and Other Essential Writings*, written by Thomas Paine, in 2003 and the author is, without a doubt, one of the most influential writers in history.

When it was first published in 1776, *Common Sense* was a mere small pamphlet, but it quickly created a sensation, and its incendiary ideas spread like wildfire among the American colonies. The reason this was so was due to the “common language” Paine used, which was immediately and easily understood by not just the intellectuals and highly educated, but by the ordinary people of America as well. It was a blunt challenge to British authority and a call to action to all people in the English colonies of North America, the first work to openly demand independence. This “modest pamphlet” by a man who was not well known at the time, was a match that lit a conflagration that eventually led to independence from the mother empire and the birth of a revolutionary new nation.

Ironically, Paine was a excise tax collector in England in 1774 who lost his job, his marriage and what little possessions he had to pay off his mounting debts. Late that year, to put his troubles behind him, he left England for the colonies of North America, settling in the city of Philadelphia, and immediately dedicated himself to the “Patriot cause” and became the chief writer and editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine*. On January 10, 1776, he published *Common Sense*, and “the first edition of 1,000 copies sold out within two weeks. By June, reprints raised the total to 150,000 copies; a phenomenal impact for a public of only 2.5 million people, a fifth of them slaves. Many more colonists read excerpts . . . in their local newspapers or heard it read aloud in taverns and on the streets. Except for the Bible, no written work had ever been so widely read and discussed in British America.”

But it was the style of Paine’s pamphlet more than anything else that made it so widely read among common folks in the colonies. “Previous political pamphleteers wrote in a learned and legalistic style.” But not Paine. “No writer has exceeded Paine in ease and familiarity of style; in perspicuity of expression; happiness of elucidation, and in simple and unassuming language,” wrote Thomas Jefferson at the time. The quotes Paine used in his work came only from the Bible, “the text widely known and revered by his intended readers.” And his primary intended audience were indeed the common folk of the colonies, his message unprecedentedly revolutionary: “He insisted that common people should no longer defer to gentlemen in politics. Aptly titled, *Common Sense* spoke to and for common people.”

Rarely, if ever, has such a small, seemingly insignificant tract had such impact. Previously, people had revered the British monarch, but Paine excoriated George III as “the royal Brute” who had “blood on his soul” for allowing Royal troops to shoot American colonists. “He relocated sovereignty away from a royal family to the collective people of a new nation” wrote Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alan Taylor, the Thomas Jefferson Professor of History at the University of Virginia, in his book *American Revolutions, A Continental History, 1750–1804*.

Paine’s conclusions in his little pamphlet thunder down through the ages, giving us all in later generations a sense of what it was like and what was at stake in those turbulent years of the late 1700s, as a weak and inexperienced people slowly became infected with the desire to break away from one of the most powerful empires in human history.

In his introduction to this edition of *Common Sense*, Sidney Hook wrote: [Paine’s] “philosophy inspired two of the greatest revolutions in human history—the American Revolution and the French Revolution. In gratitude both the United States and France bestowed citizenship upon him.”

George Washington has often been referred to as “the Father of his Country,” but as Mr. Hook says, “If any man is entitled to be called the Father of American Independence, it is Thomas Paine, whose *Common Sense* roused the public opinion of the Colonies to a white heat. Just as important was a series of pamphlets, *The American Crisis*, he wrote to sustain the morale of Washington’s army in the darkest days of the conflict. The first of them, written during Washington’s retreat before greatly superior forces, galvanized the soldiers, before whom it was read at Washington’s orders, into successful resistance and counterattack.” Many Americans of our time, early in the 21st century, would find the first lines of this pamphlet familiar, but they are worth repeating, along with other quotes from *Common Sense* and *The Rights of Man*, and a good place to end this review:

“THESE are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”
(*Common Sense*)

“The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind. . . . The birth-day of a new world is at hand.” (*Common Sense*)

“A thousand years hence, those who shall live in America, will look back with contemplative pride on the origins of their government and say, *This was the work of our glorious ancestors!* But what can a monarchical talker say? What has he to exult in? Alas! he has nothing.” (*The Rights of Man*)

—Tom Mullings

Editor's Postscript

President Trump: Free Trader or Protectionist?

By Tom Mullings

Protectionism is destructionism.

—Ronald Reagan

Foreigners are killing us on trade

—Donald Trump

I must admit, although I voted for Donald Trump in Florida's presidential primary and agree with him on most issues, his stance on the twelve-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal gave me pause about his candidacy. It did, that is, until I studied both his views on the subject and the pact in greater detail, and came to realize that neither of them represented the make-or-break deal in terms of America's geopolitical position in East Asia that I previously thought they did.

Back then I bought into the notion, championed by many conservative free traders and former President Obama as well, that what was at stake was "whether the U.S. or China writes the rules of global trade." It sure seemed that way when one considers who was included in the Pacific trade pact and who was not. The twelve participating nations include the United States along with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam, but excludes China. At the same time, an Asian pact being negotiated by the PRC includes China, but excludes the U.S. Subsequently, I've concluded that these fears were exaggerated, partly after learning that Asian nations have always intended to join both the Pacific trade pact and the regional pact proposal being negotiated by the Chinese.

Nonetheless, the Pacific trade pact does seem to offer something that impacts our security. As Charles Krauthammer has said, "In our deadly serious competition with China for influence in the region, the partnership would anchor our relations with Pacific Rim nations" and a withdrawal from the agreement would signal American retreat from East Asia, the wrong signal to be sending to our friends and allies who count on American engagement and security guarantees. If withdrawing from the TPP resulted in American influence in East Asia being replaced by China's, I would line up against it, but an honest, nuanced appraisal of President Trump's ideas on trade do not reveal a man bent on retreat into a more protectionist Fortress America. At the heart of the President's agenda for international trade is not a disillusionment with "free trade," but rather with "unfair" free trade, which is how he characterizes both the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the North American Free-Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and he has a point. "Many

countries want to export to others without restrictions but limit the access to their own markets," writes Richard W. Rahn, a member of the board of the American Council for Capital Formation. As the President points out, Japan does this to some extent and China makes a living at it, enjoying open access to our "technology markets" while closing their markets to us. "Fair free trade" is what the president favors and most Americans are with him on that, including this one. He also believes that both NAFTA and the TPP were poorly negotiated from the U.S.'s point of view and he has a point there as well. After all, with regard to negotiating deals abroad for our country, who do you think would be better at *The Art of the Deal*—Barak Obama or the 45th President of the United States? It's no contest.

By withdrawing the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal with the stroke of his executive pen, the president fulfilled a campaign promise to his supporters. "We're going to stop the ridiculous trade deals that have taken companies out of our country," he told labor leaders who met with him at the White House. "Companies that left are going to come back to our country, and they're going to hire a lot of people."

What Trump wants is to renegotiate NAFTA and the TPP on a bilateral basis with each country, which would give the U.S. much more flexibility in holding other countries' feet to the fire, with regard to violations, without upsetting the whole apple cart of international free trade. I like this way of doing things and I suspect the American people will as well. Our allies and friends abroad might grumble at the demise of TPP and NAFTA, but they would much prefer to go along with Trump's proposals than turn to the Chinese, whose ideas about free trade are anything but free. British PM Theresa May, in her recent visit here said her country was looking forward to negotiating a bilateral trade deal with the U.S. and that would be a good place to start such a process.

In the final analysis, the growing rust in the "Rust Belt" and loss of manufacturing jobs there was not primarily caused by "free trade" abroad. The lion's share of blame goes to the Democrats' insatiable appetite for ever more restrictive tax and regulatory policy that has stalled the



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mighty American economic engine, chased companies out of the country and laid off millions of American workers. Conservatives have long championed “Fair Free Trade” and should continue to do so. But as Mr. Rahn advises, The best thing we can do to bring back those jobs (and entice those companies to return home, I might add) “is to cut the corporate tax rate—which is the highest in the world—and remove excessive regulation.” Fair free trade abroad ensconced in flexible bilateral agreements with our friends

and partners coupled with sensible and much less restrictive tax and regulatory policy here at home, that is the path upon which our 45th President intends to lead us and I for one think the course he’s chosen is a wise one.

Tom Mullings is a decorated Army infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, who served as a scout dog handler with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was one of the three original incorporators of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and is a long-time Republican Executive Committeeman from precinct 5154 in Palm Beach County.



Meet One of Our Republican Supporters—America First

by Margi Helschien

***It is with love that we solve.
It is with hate that we dissolve.***

It is with pride that we can come to a country like America! We do not always like everyone, and that is OK. But we learn to live with each other and to have respect for each other.

But yet, sometimes we forget the cardinal rule: “All I ever learned, I learned in kindergarten.”

All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten

by Robert Fulghum

*Most of what I really need
To know about how to live
And what to do and how to be
I learned in kindergarten.
Wisdom was not at the top
Of the graduate school mountain,
But there in the sandpile at Sunday school.*

These are the things I learned:

*Share everything.
Play fair.
Don't hit people.
Put things back where you found them.
Clean up your own mess.
Don't take things that aren't yours.
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
Wash your hands before you eat.
Flush.
Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
Live a balanced life,
Learn some and think some
And draw and paint and sing and dance
And play and work everyday some.
Take a nap every afternoon.
When you go out into the world,
Watch out for traffic,
Hold hands and stick together.
Be aware of wonder.*

Being a Republican to me is about hope and opportunity. the party of the American Dream.

America First was started as an avenue to encourage people who love our country to be able to see and understand the American values.

It is an opportunity to bring more people into the Republican Party, and an opportunity to show people that our biggest strength lies in each other.

The organization America First raises awareness of issues and public policies that respect and affirm our Founding Fathers' principles of liberty and freedom. We are dedicated to promoting these principles in the public square through rigorous debate, scholarship, education, and advocacy. National speakers are engaged to speak and teach our supporters about the national concerns of the day. Voter education is an important part of America First to inform the public about compelling issues and solutions. American First supports:

- ★ A strong Israel
- ★ Veterans
- ★ Stronger immigration policies
- ★ A strong national defense
- ★ Less government regulation

America First has had Rock the Vote events where Donald Trump t-shirts were given away, and has hosted many exciting events, including Republican dinners that promote Republican issues with Republican speakers. America First has taken an ad in the Lincoln Day program to promote patriotism and to support the Palm Beach County Republican Party.

The next America First event is the Presidents Day Statesperson Dinner on Monday, February 20th (Presidents Day) with keynote speaker Sharon Day, co-chair of the National Republican Committee. On Tuesday, March 21st, Roger Stone, a *New York Times* bestselling author and long-time political adviser and friend to Donald Trump, will talk about his new book, *The Making of the President 2016*.

America First for the future of our country!



Republican Executive Committee Membership Application

The Republican Executive Committee (also known as the REC) is the governing body of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. The REC elects the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Party. Members of the REC also approve the Party's constitution; Rules, Policies & Procedures; and budget.

Members of the Republican Executive Committee represent the registered Republicans who live in their precinct. They serve as the Party's liaison to the Republicans in their precinct. REC members are expected to maintain contact with the Republicans living in your precinct and to keep them informed as to what is going on in the Republican Party. This can be done through E-mail or other means like regular mail, phone calls and walking your precinct. The REC is the basis for our grassroots efforts and we rely on REC Members to organize and develop their precincts, recruit new volunteers, recruit candidates to fill vacancies on the REC, find sign locations for Republican candidates, register new Republican voters and work to get out the Republican vote in their precincts during elections. The role of committeeman or committeewoman is essential to Republican Party's and our candidates' success in Palm Beach County.

REC Committeeman & Committeewoman Duties and Responsibilities

1. Expected to donate financially to the Republican Party of Palm Beach County
2. Attend REC Meetings
3. Organize your precinct and carry out the policies and programs of the Party within your precinct. Active participation in the various programs of the Party is expected.
4. Serve on a Party Committee.
5. Develop a presence in the broader community by joining a Republican Club; serving on a local board or committee; or monitoring local media for relevant material.

ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE REC MUST BE A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN IN PALM BEACH COUNTY. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REC APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT ALONG WITH A PHOTO COPY OF THE FRONT OF YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD. ANY APPLICATION RECEIVED WITHOUT A COPY OF THE APPLICANT'S VOTER REGISTRATION CARD WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING REC APPLICATIONS IS 11:00 AM, 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE REC MEETING.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Profession: _____ Precinct #: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

I am applying for the position of:



Committeeman



Committeewoman

Please return your REC Application to the Republican Party of Palm Beach County Headquarters,
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 210, West Palm Beach 33401 or fax (561) 686-1898. Phone (561) 686-1616



Republican Party of Florida Party Loyalty Oath

I, _____, swear and/or affirm that during my term of
(Name of Member – Please write clearly)

office I will not actively, publicly, or financially support the election of any candidate seeking election against:

- (1) The Republican Party's nominee in a partisan unitary, general, or special election that includes a Republican nominee; or
- (2) A registered Republican in a non-partisan election except that this provision does not apply to judicial races under Chapter 105, Florida Statutes.

I further swear or affirm that, in a contested Republican primary election, I will not support the nomination of one Republican candidate over another in my capacity as a Republican County Executive Committee member unless the Party has voted to endorse under RPOF Rule 8. This provision does not preclude me from supporting in any manner my personal Republican candidate of choice in a contested Republican primary election, provided I do not express such support with public reference to my title or office within the Republican Party of Florida.

Signature of Member

Signature of Witness

County/Precinct #

Date

Office: _____

**(State Committeeman, State Committeewoman; Precinct Committeeman, Precinct Committeewoman;
Alt. Precinct Committeeman, Alt. Precinct Committeewoman)**

Address, as it appears on voter registration

Email

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

**CANDIDATE OATH -
PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND
COMMITTEEWOMEN**

OFFICE USE ONLY

OATH OF CANDIDATE (Section 99.021, Florida Statutes)

I, _____
(PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT * -- NAME MAY NOT BE CHANGED AFTER THE END OF QUALIFYING)

am a candidate for the office of Precinct Committeeman Committeewoman Precinct Number _____,

I am a qualified elector of _____ County, Florida; I am qualified under the Constitution and the Laws of Florida to hold the office to which I desire to be nominated or elected; and I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida.

Candidate's Florida Voter Registration Number (located on your voter information card): _____

* Please print name phonetically on the line below as you wish it to be pronounced on the audio ballot for persons with disabilities (see instructions on page 2 of this form):

STATEMENT OF PARTY (Section 99.021, Florida Statutes)

I am a member of the _____ Party; I have not been a registered member of any other political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which I seek to qualify; and I have paid the assessment levied against me, if any, as a candidate for said office by the executive committee of the political party, of which I am a member.

X	()		
Signature of Candidate	Telephone Number	Email Address	
Address	City	State	ZIP Code

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this _____ **day of** _____, **20** _____.

Personally Known: _____ or

Produced Identification: _____

Type of Identification Produced:

Signature of Notary Public
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public
