

Republican Club at The Villages

Newsletter

August 2020

President Burt Lancaster's Message

The year seems to be flying by. The Covid 19 Pandemic, the unrest and riots in many major cities, and the vicious battles beginning in the political cycle. I am sometimes amazed how much "news" is hitting my inboxes. Some days I need to stop and think about all that is happening and to digest it all.

The major point is that we must keep our sights on the presidential election. The knives are being honed now by the left in our country. They will be doing all they can to try to not let Trump be reelected for his second term. Many of the talking heads that I have seen on TV have made bold and unprovable statements and allegations against the administration and President Trump. Most are outright lies. And they do this with a straight face!

So what can we do? First I sent a small personal check to the Donald Trump 2020 reelection campaign. Every penny helps. Next we all need to be sure to vote. Most of us here at the Villages vote absentee. One of our fellow Republican club members called me with some rather shocking news. His daughter who lives up the Peninsula, checked her voting status. She found out that she had been removed from the voting rolls even though she had not moved and had voted in all elections. Our member decided that he should check his own status and discovered that he too had been removed. I am wondering if we all need to call the Registrar's office to be sure that we get our ballots.

Next, we need to speak to all of our neighbors, friends and relatives about the importance of this election. I have spoken with a number of people (non-Villagers) who told me that they thought it would be useless to vote in such a climate as we are experiencing. I convinced most of the true importance of this cycle and reminded them that there are other candidates, issues and propositions on the ballot that will affect all who live here.

I hope and pray that you are all well and staying away from the nasty China Flu, as Trump now calls it. My good friend and neighbor Charlotte Boileau has died. She had been ill for a number of years. At the same time, my old business partner in Australia and another in Munich Germany have also died.

Stay healthy and keep up the good work.

Getting to know...

Publicity Director, Gary Hill

Gary and Carolyn have lived in the Villages since 1984! That must be some kind of record! That was back when the minimum age was 45, not 55, in case you are doing the math. Gary served on the Association Board of Directors for years 2003 through 2006 - Secretary of the Board for three of those years.

Gary was a founding member of the Republican Club, which was officially organized in 1998. Gary reports that our own Donna Roberson started the Club, converting it from a Women's organization, as it had originally been formatted. (I wonder how many women she lost upon conversion!) Donna currently serves as Co-Chair of Reservations/Menu for our monthly meetings – remember those?) Gary has served two terms as President of the Club and is currently Publicity Director.

Gary began his 42-year work career as a Production Engineer, making nuclear reactors for submarines, such as the Polaris. He retired after 35 years with United Technologies. "It's not rocket science," but Gary was Director of the Titan IV Solid Rocket Booster Program, a \$2.5 billion program for launching military satellites from Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Gary graduated from Colorado School of Mines with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering and did post-graduate studies at Carnegie-Mellon Institute in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Co-Chair, Reservations/Menu, Jean Corrigan

Jean is a 5th generation native Californian, born and raised in San Francisco. She has also lived, however, in the country of Guatemala, the states of Minnesota and Washington, and in the California cities of Livermore, Morgan Hill and San Jose. Married in 1957, Jean has two children and three grandchildren.

Jean attended Lowell High School and U.C. Berkley, but her career has been one of volunteering: 12 years in the public schools, 18 years as a 4-H Sheep Leader, 44 years volunteering at Kaiser Santa Teresa (In-patient Services,) and annually at the Santa Clara County Fair (All the 4-H Club members and projects) from 1972 to 2019!

Jean moved to the Villages in 1993 and of course extended her volunteer life to include the Activities Committee, Parade Committee, EPC, and our very own Republican Club. (No, Reservations/Menu is not a paid position!)

From Cathy Pope - Sunshine Corner:

Charlotte Boileau was just 83 when she passed away (July 20, 2020) with her family by her side, per the obituary in the July 30 Villager. The Villager very briefly mentions that Charlotte was a member of the Republican Club. For the record, Charlotte was a valued, long-time member of the Republican Club at the Villages, wearing many hats over the years, including Treasurer, Hospitality Chair and Sunshine Corner. She was also an accomplished pianist and played "God Bless America" at every Club meeting.

Charlotte will be remembered for her devotion to the Republican Party and to our Club. She was a constant at our Board Meetings and always well prepared. She was an avid Bridge player and friend to many.

Charlotte showed great strength and courage over the past several years. We have lost a true patriot, but she will be with us always.

Our thought and prayers are with her family at this sad time.

From Laura Swenson – Treasury and Membership:

We collected \$2,265 in membership for the 2020 year.

Disbursements of approved donations have totaled \$1,250 thus far this year. We expect to send about \$100 per month in donations for the remainder of the year.

With current year inactivity due to the pandemic, we do not expect to have any other expenditures, besides approved donations.

Our account balance is \$4,637

Membership Information – Tom Zades:

Please welcome Mr. Alan Pease, who joined us last month. A 3-year Villages resident, his contact information (shown as Charles, but call him "Al") is in the directory. Al is trying to start some zoom meetings, partly in order to confirm for himself that there are more than two members (Burt and me) in the Club, and to see what some of us look like!

I have 135 separate email addresses on the group list, plus 36 spouses mentioned = 171 who potentially read this newsletter. Laura had membership at 154 back in May. Alan, then, makes 155. Some spouses are obviously not members.

IN THE NEWS

New York Times 1619 Project

In a speech on July 16, 2020 Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that the American way of life is “under attack” and accused the New York Times of promoting “Marxist” ideology with its controversial “1619 Project.”

According to the Times (i.e., **by its own admission***), the 1619 Project “aims to reframe the country’s history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.”

Pompeo went on to say “The New York Times’ 1619 project, so named for the year the first slaves were transported to America, wants you to believe that our country was founded for* human bondage. They want you to believe that America’s institutions continue to reflect the country’s acceptance of slavery at our founding. They want you to believe the Marxist ideology that America is only (**consists only of***) the oppressors and the oppressed,” he said.

“The Chinese Communist Party must be gleeful when they see the New York Times spout this ideology,” he said.

He went on to say that those who are pulling down statues and desecrating monuments have a “dark vision of America’s birth.” “I reject it; it’s a disturbed reading of America’s history; it is a slander of our great people. Nothing could be further from the truth of our founding.”

*** Editor’s clarifications**

Bari Weiss on the “Cancel Culture”

Recently resigned New York Times opinion editor Bari Weiss and Harper's Magazine columnist Thomas Chatterton Williams appeared on "Real Time with Bill Maher" recently to explain the open letter they penned decrying "cancel culture." The letter was signed by other prominent liberals, as well, including "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling, political activist Noam Chomsky, and feminist icon Gloria Steinem. They were all defending open debate without fear of repercussions.

The letter faced heavy criticism from the left, as Bill Maher noted. "What strikes me about it," he said "is the pushback is coming from liberals and almost everyone who signed this letter ... is a liberal!"

Weiss called the open letter a "warning cry from inside the institutions" and coined the phrase “Culture of illiberalism,” **which of course we on the right have been decrying for some time. The Cal Berkeley campus that gave rise to Mario Savio and the “Free Speech Movement” back in 1960s will no longer tolerate visiting conservative speakers.**

IN THE NEWS, CONT'D

Weiss said that:

- ✓ Politics has become a "religious identity" for many Americans, pointing to how on the left, "To be anything less than 'Defund the police'... makes you something like a heretic."
- ✓ It's about punishing the person for being insufficiently pure."
- ✓ "If conversation with people that we disagree with becomes impossible, what is the way that we solve conflict?... It's violence." (If there is a conservative version of "wokeness," Bari Weiss just found it!)

Steve Hilton and "Rope-a-Dope"

"The Next Revolution" host Steve Hilton urged the Trump campaign recently to "turn up the tempo," expressing concerns over their "baffling complacency" that he fears will result in a Joe Biden victory this November. "Where is the energy?" he asked. "Where are the ideas in the hope for the future?" "They seem to be sleepwalking into a Biden presidency."

I suspect that President Trump is using the old "rope-a-dope" technique made famous by Muhammed Ali. As explained by Wikipedia, "rope-a-dope" describes a strategy in which a boxer lets his opponent fatigue himself by drawing non-injuring offensive punches. This then gives the boxer an advantage as the opponent becomes tired, allowing him to execute devastating offensive maneuvers and thereby win.

In the case of Trump versus Biden, it is more about letting Biden and the media have a false sense of security, letting them drift further and further left, letting them have enough rope to hang themselves, and then coming back "with a vengeance." Trump is a hard closer and a devastating counterpuncher. He's got Biden and the media right where he wants them. (I think; I hope!)

Senator Ted Cruz on the Radical Left

After chairing a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing, Senator Ted Cruz had this to say August 4 on "Hannity":

- "Democrats are 'facilitating' riots and violence in major American cities and encouraging 'radical leftists' who are threatening Americans."
- "What's happening, unfortunately, is not free speech, and those who are peaceably protesting are seeing their protests hijacked by violent anarchists, by Marxists who are engaged in acts of terror."
- "Seven Democrats spoke and questioned the witnesses. *Not a single one dared to criticize Antifa in any way...* they want to encourage these radical leftists."
- "Most of the party is really held captive to the extreme angry voices, whether it's Antifa, whether ... it is AOC or Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren. And you see them denying reality. You'll also see them using rhetoric, I mean, calling federal police officers 'storm troopers' like Nancy Pelosi did, or 'Gestapo,' as Clyburn did ... Cops are not Nazis, and it is grotesque. It is offensive."

Facebook was thoughtful enough to flag this image as part of its efforts to "combat false news and misinformation on its News Feed." I'm sure we are all grateful. PolitiFact gave the image a "half true" because Melania's staff had grown from 4 when the statement was made to 10 most recently (still the smallest staff since Mamie Eisenhower.) The other three elements of the image were all true. That alone (3 out of 4) would make it 75% true. Add the fact that the number 4 was accurate when the image went viral, and we can say that it was 100% true at the time, and is true in spirit now.



From Abraham Lincoln's "House Divided" Speech, Springfield, Illinois June 16, 1858: "A house divided against itself, cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

With this in mind, listen to The Federalist Senior Editor Chris Bedford on Fox News August 6, 2020 - quotes and paraphrases:

"America is missing the fierce patriotism possessed by other nations, including China, while acquiring tendencies it should hate."

"Our Silicon Valley and our tech giants built a lot of the technology that the Chinese are now using to oppress their people. Everyone from The New York Times to Barack Obama has praised the Chinese system ... And we're seeing it more and more."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's recent threat to cut utility service to houses that host large parties

Going after churches and places that refuse to shut down, but allowing the protesters to gather - a double standard completely

A Los Angeles police officer claims in a lawsuit that an aide sexually harassed him for years in the presence of the mayor

If the Democrats were to win in November by standing "against the liberties we cherish," the U.S. will struggle to survive.

"We were warned very clearly by the geniuses (**he's not being facetious here**) that came together and designed this system that it's a very unstable system. It relies on a culture that is united. It relies on people who are moral. It relies on a republic. Right now, we're moving closer and closer to mob rule, to corporatist technocratic rule run by people who think this country is evil at its core ... China's not divided. A country that's divided like that is going to have a difficult time standing."

Underlines are mine – editor

"These are the times that try men's souls."-Thomas Paine 1775-76

FOR THE RECORD

General Meeting Dates
(All Thursdays)
Schedule to be announced when known

Board of Directors
Resumption to be announced when known
(First Monday of the Month, 10:00 a.m., Building A)

2020 OFFICERS

President	Burt Lancaster	uncleburt@hotmail.com
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Treasurer	Laura Swenson	lauraswenson1953@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

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Social Committee Chair	Your name here	