

From Vienna in Madrid

(continued – March Newsletter)

Largely, though, Dean's take was optimistic – November looks good for Democrats. He pointed to the recent special election victories that were powered by women, people of color, and millennials. Speaking to a roomful of, ahem, experienced Democrats, he wasn't shy in asserting that older Democrats have to get out of the way. The party doesn't need 70-year-old leaders, he declared; a stable of young candidates and politicians are emerging and showing us what they are capable of.

Dean underscored his view that the DNC needs to reinvent itself as a younger party. Its hierarchical structure reflects how Baby-boomers run things, but millennials operate in flatter hierarchies, with few leaders and responsibility diffused and widely shared – Black Lives Matter and The Women's March are two cases in point. He noted that young people vote Democrat because they share our values and are anti-Trump. They aren't joining the party, however. Millennials – expert at mobilizing on the internet (the Call BS movement after the Parkland shooting is a good illustration of how quickly they can do this) – are not good at working together. Older Democrats can coach the cohort how to build their institutions, because they'll need them to ensure that their achievements endure.

The DA Women's Caucus hosted a panel discussion on #MeToo, posing the question whether this is a moment or a movement. The panel only agreed that we need more conversation to illuminate and break down the issues of sexual harassment and female empowerment. In light of BLM, Women's March, the anti-gun Call BS action, and #MeToo, it is hard not to conclude that a sustained activist era has arrived.

– Tanya Lolonis, Solidarity Sundays Vienna, Co-Coordinator