

**Harvey Milk Democratic Club**  
**August General Membership Meeting**  
**Women's Building**  
**3543 18th St #8, San Francisco, CA 94110**  
**Audre Lorde Room**  
**August 15, 2017**

Co-Presidents welcome new folks and introduce themselves to the attending members.

**1st Agenda Item:** Pair Exercise: Initials thoughts regarding Charlottesville

**2nd Agenda Item:** Small Group discussion on the current administration.

The general members broke into small groups of 4-5 to discuss the following questions:  
What are the issues/policies under the current administration that have affected you the most?  
What do you think are the most important lessons that we should learn after losing the presidential election as the Democratic Party?

All the members came together to discuss their concerns with the current administration. Trans immigrants are feeling particularly vulnerable.

Jesus Barragan motions that the Harvey Milk Democratic Club go on record to denounce the white supremacist gathering in Berkeley on August 26. Lito Sandoval raises the importance of statements and actions. (The motion was not revisited.)

**3rd Agenda Item:** Panel on Charlottesville and the future of the Democratic Party.

The Three Panelist are comedian Nato Green, Jovanka Beckles (Richmond City Council and candidate for State Assembly in AD 15), and Jesse Arreguin (1st Latino Mayor of Berkeley).

*1) How does the loss in November connect with the Charlottesville? What have you learned from the election?*

Arreguin: The Sanders campaign definitely brought the idea of progressive ideas, but the Democratic Party did not embrace them. Instead, they rejected his ideas. The Trump campaign won on a device and misleading message. Berkeley progressives, along with Richmond and the Bay Area, should set a standard.

Beckles: LOTS of mistakes were made. To ignore Sander's audience said that corporate sponsors were prioritized over the people. The convention did a good job at showing the Democratic Party's interest in money over people. How fired-up young people were disregarded spoke volumes.

Not reaching out to people of color was a huge mistake. There was a huge difference between the two candidates. One candidate (Clinton) dishonored and disregarded some of the women who spoke on behalf of BLM, while the other candidate (Sanders) allowed a safe space for them to express their vision. It is critical that we all come together and not operate so far apart from each other. Unlike the right which is all on the same page. It is critical that we save our planet which will be on the brink of no return in two years if we don't do anything. LET'S UNITE. Let's be those little spiders that tie up that lion.

Green: He wants to give the perspective on a straight white guy. The Democratic Party would rather lose than really fight for the concerns of the people. The only teachers who matter are your enemies. It is a very clear struggle for power. Are we conducting ourselves like there are people who want to kill us ? If so where is that urgency? In general, our ideas are too small. We need to engage. If we don't organize these raggedy white people, the Nazis will. It is definitely a race.

*2) How do we pull our mix and divided constituencies together and make a base?*

Beckles: It is about class. There is class warfare.

Arreguin: There is a race war going on due to this administration. The white supremacists and racists are not welcome in Berkeley. There is also a MASSIVE wealth inequality.

Beckles: The candidates you support should be held accountable. What she has seen thus far, those who take corporate money vote corporate.

Beckles: She reminds us that those white supremacist are walking with their hoods OFF, and we are in a very dangerous place in our country right now.

Green: He speaks on what he has seen in San Francisco. There is no real pipeline for leadership in every district. A lot of neighborhoods don't vote on a progressive platform.

*3) Can the Democratic Party be fixed?*

Beckles: She has been a Democrat for over 30 years, and she is beginning to wonder herself if the party can be saved. She wonders because Democrats value justice and equality. But if the leadership is not listening, then it's time to go. If there is an organization that does not want to respond to the truth, then it is going to die. Maybe it's time to start just voting for people who align with your values. No more voting just according to the party. It is time to fight for what is right.

*4) What can we do as progressives in terms of outreach? How can we fix the electoral process? How can we disrupt the alt-right platform? How do we organize against white supremacist? How do you encourage young leaders to challenge the dynasties that have been formed in Congress? How do we get out of our bubble and proactively act in their bubbles?*

Arreguin: We need to message from a value standpoint. They tend to appeal to national values. Rather than learning from their mistakes, the Democratic Party seems to keep moving in the same direction.

Beckles: Ask your elected officials to block permits for racist organizations.

Green: Two closing thoughts: We need a united front. Do we want to be white, or would we rather have a species that will survive?

**Meeting is adjourned at 9:09 pm.**