



The **ROADwomen** Register

**NOVEMBER
2017**

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NEXT MEETING

**November 16,
2017**

Day of Action

*Parish Hall
St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
1805 W. Alabama
6:00 p.m.
Program begins at
6:30 p.m.*

Day of Action at ROADwomen!

Join ROADwomen on THURSDAY, November 16, for a special meeting: The ROADwomen Day of Action.

Houston was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey and many of our fellow Houstonians are still suffering from its aftermath. In addition, many of us are concerned about Puerto Rico, which was devastated by two hurricanes, Irma and Maria, which hit the island US territory as a Category Five storm. There are ways you can help, both locally and in Puerto Rico.



Bill Baldwin, a volunteer recently appointed as Deputy of Disaster Relief for the City of Houston, is also the Disaster Relief Coordinator for Puerto Rico. Baldwin will fill us in on the status of the recovery efforts here and in Puerto Rico.

You'll also be able to hear from other local organizations on the front line of recovery. Find out how you can get involved this Holiday Season.



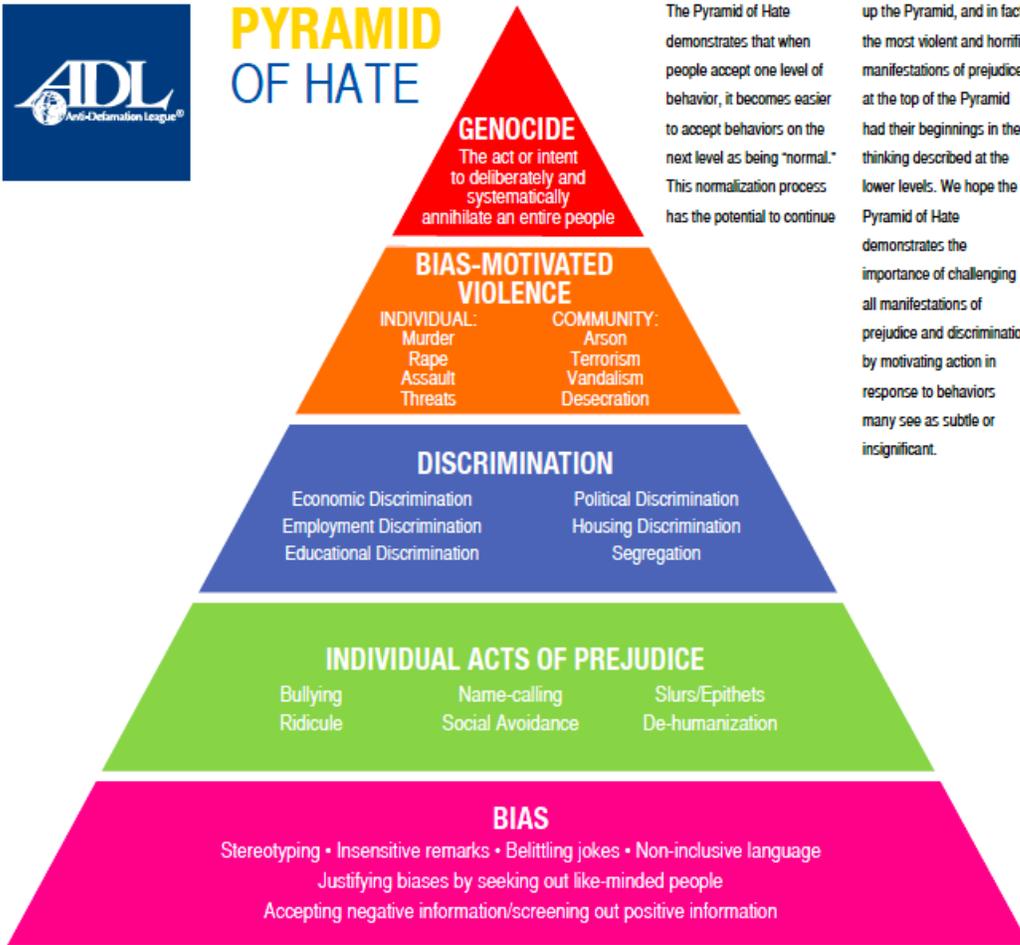
If you're thinking "I want to help but I don't know what's the best project for me." this is the meeting for you.

Please note the meeting is on Thursday this month, not Tuesday. See you on Thursday!





PYRAMID OF HATE



The Pyramid of Hate demonstrates that when people accept one level of behavior, it becomes easier to accept behaviors on the next level as being "normal." This normalization process has the potential to continue

up the Pyramid, and in fact, the most violent and horrific manifestations of prejudice at the top of the Pyramid had their beginnings in the thinking described at the lower levels. We hope the Pyramid of Hate demonstrates the importance of challenging all manifestations of prejudice and discrimination by motivating action in response to behaviors many see as subtle or insignificant.

CONNECTING THE DOTS POST HARVEY (Weinstein, That Is)

by Muffie Moroney

Harvey Weinstein opened the floodgates. After those initial revelations about his alleged abusive sexual behavior, accusations of harassment and sexual misconduct involving all manner of men in all walks of life have been exploding at dizzying speed. The alleged abusers run the gamut from Hollywood moguls to Silicon Valley executives to a former President of the United States. (We already knew about the current one)

Is this the turning point we have been waiting for?

Can we make any kind of sense of this whirlwind time, and are there any "roadmaps" for us out of this dismal swamp? Yes and yes, and some thoughts and opinions will follow in a subsequent column. For now, a brief introduction to give context.

Lisa Falkenberg, our own Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, recently wrote a column in the *Houston Chronicle* about hate speech. She mentioned the Anti-Defamation League Pyramid of Hate, a graphic representation of the relationship between words and actions. Abbie Kamin, ROADwomen executive committee member and a lawyer on the staff of the Houston ADL affiliate, obtained permission for ROADwomen to reproduce and discuss the Pyramid of Hate and its accompanying commentary explaining the relationship between various levels of speech and conduct.

Here is one roadmap:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, told his followers at the 1965 Selma march that what was needed for lasting social change: Steady, Loving (or respectful) Confrontation.

More on all of this in a subsequent column. In the meantime, I commend to you the Pyramid of Hate and the lessons it can teach us. And I welcome your input. As Rachel Maddow says...

Watch this space.
Muffie

ROADWOMEN UPDATES

RESULTS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2017 ELECTION

All City of Houston Propositions passed by substantial margins.

All Texas State Propositions passed by substantial margins.

Houston Independent School District Trustee Elections

District I: Run-Off between Elizabeth Santos v. Gretchen Himsel

District III: Run-Off between Jesse A. Rodriguez v. Sergio Lira

District V: Sue Deigaard elected without run-off

District VI: Holly Flynn Vilaseca elected without run-off

District VII: Anne Sung elected without run-off

District IX: Wanda Adams elected without run-off

Houston Community College Trustee Elections

District IV: Carolyn Evans-Shabazz elected without run-off

District V: Robert Glaser elected without run-off

District IX: Run-Off between Eugene Pack v. Pretta Van Dible Stallworth

The Run-Off Election is scheduled for December 9, 2017.

IMPORTANT AFFORDABLE CARE DATES

The 2018 Open Enrollment Period runs from November 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017.

Plans sold during Open Enrollment start January 1, 2018.



Beto O'Rourke at HCDP Friendsgiving Fall Festival, November 12, 2017

Lessons From Virginia

BY SHARON WILLIAMS

On the Monday before Election Day 2016, I had a long talk with a good friend who, for most of her voting life, has considered herself a Republican, the old-fashion kind of socially-moderate Republican woman who supports Planned Parenthood but votes her husband's pocketbook. Now divorced, she no longer considers herself (her term not mine) a "Stepford Wife Republican," but she has never been particularly interested in politics on any level. So the conversation she initiated that Monday came as a surprise.

"I'm terrified," she said. "I'm so afraid Trump is going to win."

I did my best to talk her off the ledge. I was pretty confident Clinton was going to win, optimistic that the vast majority of Americans saw Trump for the charlatan he is.

I was wrong, of course. I was teary-eyed for days, not just because Hillary Clinton, a woman I have long admired, lost, but because it appeared that many, many Americans (though not a majority) shared the bigoted, homophobic, misogynistic views we all saw at the endlessly televised Trump rallies.

So it's been a tough year...that is, until Election Day 2017. To borrow a phrase from the aftermath of the Great Recession, "green shoots" of hope were springing up everywhere. In Houston, all of the city's bond issues passed. Even with a couple of positions headed to a run-off, the HISD board will be the most progressive in recent memory.

And then there was Virginia. The gubernatorial campaign had been a nasty one. Republican Ed Gillespie had pulled out all the Trump tricks. The polls, which had consistently shown Democrat Ralph Northam slightly ahead, were tightening. There was that now-infamous *Morning Joe* clip in which every single person on the panel picked Gillespie to win.

But, to quote the cliché, the only poll that counts is on Election Day. Virginians, particularly those in urban areas such as the DC suburbs of Northern Virginia, stood in long lines...in the rain! The voters were going to have their say and what they said was "we've had enough."



Northam didn't just squeak out a victory. He won by 9 points...a veritable landslide. His entire slate won, and probably even more meaningful long term, Democrats picked up at least 15 seats in the House of Delegates. That puts the Democrats on the cusp of taking over the majority and with a couple of races waiting recounts, the takeover could be complete.

The Blue Wave wasn't limited to Virginia. In off-off year elections around the country, people came out to support Democrats, belying the conventional wisdom that Dems can't win in the out years.

So what caused this encouraging turn of events...and what does it mean for Texas?

Lesson #1: You have got to show up. Virginia Democrats won Delegate seats they had not even contested four years ago. Leaving offices to Republicans because no one ran against them is, well, dumb. Texans have until December 11 to get on the 2018 Primary ballot. Not every Republican is going to lose, but they literally can't lose if the voters don't have an alternative.



against Virginia's self-professed "Chief Homophobe," and beat the long-time incumbent Delegate by almost ten points.

Lesson #3: Quit the in-fighting. Virginia had a hard-fought primary for governor. Rightly or wrongly, it was characterized in the media as a Hillary vs. Bernie thing. When Northam ("Hillary") won, his opponent Tom Perriello ("Bernie") didn't pick up his toys and go home, taking his voters with him. He became the chief cheerleader for the Democratic slate from Northam right down to the Delegate races. Unity counts.

Lesson #4: Get to the polls. Remember those long lines in the rain. Virginians turned out. Lots of them. The size of the electorate rivaled a Presidential year, the highest turnout for a Virginia gubernatorial race in twenty years. And the turnout was where it needed to be...in the urban areas where diversity is the norm and Democratic values are the strongest. The Republicans still ruled rural Virginia but Democratic voters in the cities and the suburbs outnumbered them. While Democrats can't ignore the less populated regions (See Lesson #1), maximizing the turnout in the urban areas is the key to winning. Texas is much like Virginia. Blue cities surrounded by red counties, some with more cows than people. We need to turn more Texas urbanites into voters, particularly Latinos and single women whose voting participation, even by Texas standards, is abysmal.

Virginia is farther down the road from red to blue than Texas is. But Texas is catching up fast. Keep in mind that Hillary Clinton won virtually all the state's urban centers (Ft. Worth being the only exception). Clinton came closer to winning Texas than she did to winning Ohio. Trump's approval rating is underwater in Texas, 45-55. My friend is still frightened by what is happening to this country and she is non-political no more. The opening is there for real Democratic gains in 2018.

ELECTION 2017



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The Register welcomes your contributions.
Please submit any material by the 10th of the
month to swilliams2@comcast.net.

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naomi kraus* jeri kuhleman * mary laminack * dodi mckellar *
jane dale owen * phyllis segal * barbara winston * shirley wright
* **ROADcouples for Life:** tom jones & pam higgins * nancy
mcgregor & neal manne * audrey & marvin peterson * lou &
buddy rosenfeld * bobbie bayless & dalia stokes * **Sustaining**
ROADwomen/men: denise adjei * susan allison * jacqueline
armstrong * virginia camfield * linda cisco * charlotte coffelt *
sheila v coleman * martha cottingham * charles t deeds * doris
fears * dolores goble * virginia joiner * sheila loewenstern * mary
sue mcgovern * patrice mckinney * suzan miles * kay morgan *
muffie moroney * peggy s nelson * coyia richter * laurie robinson
* mallory robinson * vincent ryan * alice smith * kathleen stone
* mary taylor * rosalie weisfeld * **Sustaining ROADcouples:** *
gene creely & adra hooks * leif & elsie hatlen * sherry & mike
matula * sherry & gerald merfish * john & nancy preston



ROADwomen MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES! I want to be a member of ROADwomen at the level checked below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

(The State of Texas requires occupation information)

This is a Gift Membership for:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young ROADwoman/man | 1st Year Free/ <i>Subsequent years see below</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young ROADwoman/man | \$35 a year (Under 40 years of age) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young ROADwoman/man | \$25 a year (Students only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROADwoman/man | \$50 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROADcouple | \$75 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining ROADwoman/man | \$100 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining ROADcouple | \$150 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROADwoman/man for LIFE | \$1,000 (one time only! No more dues!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROADcouple for LIFE | \$1500 (one time only! No more dues!) |

All memberships include a subscription to The ROADwomen Register newsletter.
Sustaining memberships and LIFE memberships include monthly acknowledgement
in the ROADwomen Register.

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