



# The Tri-Valley Democrat

Tri-Valley Democratic Club

November, 2006

**President:** Ellen Schaefer

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Corresponding Secretary:** Rich Halket

**Recording Secretary:** Sue Martin

**Treasurer:** Jim Kohnen

**Newsletter editor:** Mary Beth Acuff

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 11886, Pleasanton, CA 94588

**Meeting Place:** IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin

**Telephone answering service:** (925) 443 DEMO

**Website:** [www.trivalleydems.com](http://www.trivalleydems.com)

## Nov. Meeting Agenda

### IBEW Hall

**Monday, Nov. 20, 2006**

**Bring a friend with you. Prepare to enjoy the fruits of our hard work and long campaign.**

### Long Social period 7:00 P.M.

Celebration of huge gains

Rededication to areas of loss

### Short Business Meeting 8:00

Develop slate of officers for '07

Plan holiday party

Announcements

### Adjourn

## Notable Quotes:

"I didn't attend the funeral but I sent a nice letter saying I approved."

Mark Twain

## Cuff links

By Acuff

**R**ichard Pombo began to lose **his** district in 1996 when Ellen Tauscher won **her** district from Bill Baker. Strange as it seems, I think that was the beginning of the Democratic turnaround in the Tri-Valley.

Tauscher was an untried candidate. She had to be coaxed into running by her friends. Her

advantage was that her friends were experienced Democratic Party leaders and she and they had money.

Still, Baker and the Republicans thought they were safe, that their district was solid. They didn't notice that the demographics were changing around them as new people poured into the East Bay looking for jobs and a good environment.

That election season was not easy but it generated a lot of new Democratic Party energy. Tauscher's win stimulated her supporters to keep going.

Tom Torlakson grabbed the bit and carried solid Democratic politics forward on the state level. Furthermore, he walked all over the state assembly district, talking in his quiet, persuasive way to people and generating a sympathetic identity for progressive ideas.

He trained a cadre of volunteers in the process. Gary Prost was with him. So was Tim Sbranti.

When Pombo ran for Congress in 1992, he had been a Tracy councilman and he ran as a representative for large landowners who resented any inter-

ference with their "right" to use and abuse the land or habitat it represented.

If there is a law of unintended consequences, Pombo surely triggered it with his relentless campaign to gut any environmental protection laws and his accession to a position where he could deliver for his landowning family and constituents.

Because, as demand for housing grew larger than the Tri-Valley could contain, the landowners over the Altamont, with profit in their eyes, subdivided their ranchland and began building houses. Right then, the demographics began to change and Pombo became vulnerable.

Nobody paid any attention, not the Republicans who thought their district was safe, and not the state Democrats who gerrymandered an impossible configuration for the district. They intended to safeguard Tauscher for Livermore by allowing the Republicans to keep a registration margin for Pombo.

Then Dems, thinking the district was lost, refused to fund a challenge. I guess we showed ‘em.

Elaine Shaw broke the ground in 2000 by being so angry at Pombo’s predations she was willing to make the challenge. Her campaign began the organization that would finally be great enough to win. Gary Prost was with her, too. Then Gary went on to help McNerney.

The miracle was it only took 6 years for the Democrats on the ground to change the registration balance to within spitting dis-tance and to find a candidate in Jerry McNerney, mild enough, persuasive enough and persistent enough to pull it all together.

**So we can raise a glass with pride to the Tri-Valley Democrats and our steady campaign to humanize our area.**

We still have work to do but in general our city councils, state representatives and now our national legislators are the better for it.

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**Watch for this**

Since we didn’t pass the Clean Money proposition, we will see it come up in Sacramento again. Also watch for health care legislation and some groundbreaking proposals on immigration.

Our mugwump governor is going to face mounting pressure to raise taxes. Couldn’t happen to a more deserving guy.

**Get Active**

Think seriously about running for office with the Tri-Valley Democrats. This is a winning organization with enormous potential. Our members are supportive and this could be a season to build a stronger organization. If we divide the workload, no one need be over burdened.

**Only your participation assures that our government will stay...  
Of the people  
By the people  
and  
For the people**

**Come celebrate, Monday Nov. 20, IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, 7:00 P.M.**

**Quick Calendar:**

**For Films** at IBEW, see the TVDC website for the latest.

[www.trivalleydems.com](http://www.trivalleydems.com)

**The Political Book Club** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Livermore Library, 7 pm. **ACLU** is one of several national organizations asking for help in contacting national legislators on critical civil liberties issues.

Go to:

[www.ACLU.org](http://www.ACLU.org)

**Membership Form**  
\$30. household memberships  
\$20. individual membership  
\$10. student/ senior  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



