

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

November 2017

President's Byline : Let Us Rejoice !



Now that we have enjoyed another grand Thanksgiving season my heart is filled with gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the blessings we enjoy! Our nation is prospering these few months. New Jobs have been created and the unemployment has gone down to the lowest in over 15 years.

Let this inspire us to go forward with our might and courage to raise our banner high. Yes, the flag represents our nation and the freedom to chose our own destiny.

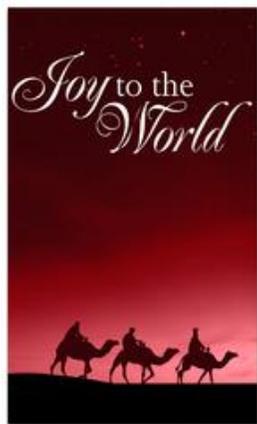
As we come to this Christmas season may we celebrate in truth and righteousness the true Light of the World. We celebrate the miracle of life and the holiness of our Savior and Messiah, the true light and life of the world. This time is also the Festival of Lights, a miracle of the candles burning for seven days.

Light and truth is what our nation was founded on and what we must build on for a joyful and prosperous nation that our future will be the true fulfillment of our Devine destiny.

Let us rejoice in the miracle of birth, in the miracle of life, the miracle of forgiveness and redemption. Let us show more loving kindness to our families and friends and especially those who treat us unfair and unkind that we may come off conqueror.

Let us sing Hallelujah and praise our nation where virtue and truth are shining examples to others.

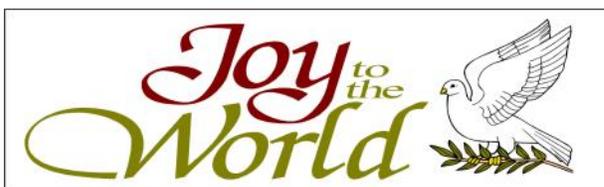
"O say what is truth? 'Tis the fairest gem That the riches of worlds can produce, and priceless the value of truth will be when The proud monarch's costliest diadem Is counted but dross and refuse." From John Jaques



May we treasure the Truth and rejoice in the freedoms we so abundantly enjoy! Very Merry Christmas!

Denise Midgley

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Calendar of Events



Board Meeting &
Coupon Cutting
By Email Notice

December Plano Republican Women Meeting



Plano Republican Women invite you to join us for Christmas High Tea:

DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2017

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Reflections on Spring Creek, 1901 Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas 7074

COST: \$25.00 (special price for PRW) please mail your check payable to PRW to Catherine Gibb, 4305 Angelina Drive, Plano, Texas. Your payment will be your RSVP as no money will be collected at the event and your check must be received by Friday, December 1, 2017.

For centuries, the English have embraced this delightful tradition. Now you can join us for this unique Christmas experience, creating memories and a new tradition for your holiday season. Christmas High Tea at Reflections is now presented by Executive Chef Jon, known for his masterful tea presentations.

CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA

Christmas High Tea begins with a cupping of seasonal tea choices.

Tea is followed by a seasonal Soup du Jour like Butternut Squash, Three Mushroom Soup, Curried Soup, Curried Pumpkin or Shrimp Bisque and a colorful mixed green salad with nuts, Cranberries and hand carved tomato rose

Traditional Holiday English Tea Sandwiches including chicken salad with fresh apple chutney, cucumber dill, smoked salmon with herbed cream cheese and egg salad

Hot Spiced Wassail and fresh Gingerbread from Chef's collection of authentic century old century old recipes, and holiday scones served with lemon curd, jams and clotted cream

Christmas Petit-Fours, and other delectable Christmas cookies.

PRW November Meeting Photos



An Island of Conservatives in a Sea of Liberals

Seeking like minds, students at Paly form club to discuss their political views

By Elena Kadvany/Palo Alto Weekly

October 13, 2017

When Palo Alto High School sophomore Jackson Druker wore his red "Make America Great Again" hat to school last year, he said he was bullied, harassed and even physically assaulted.

Students took his hat and stepped on it. Others cursed at him. One student punched him in the back of his head, he said. Another told him "I literally want to shoot you right now if you don't take off that hat," he said during a class presentation on the experience. Druker's account with online schoolwork-management system Schoology was hacked and his contact information changed to hillyclintonlover3@gmail.com, he said.

He was sent to the office — "on the pretense I was saying hurtful things," he said — and when he returned later to report the physical assault, administrators told him to not wear the hat so as to prevent other incidents.

Druker was in the midst of an experiment: testing what he calls "the hypocrisy of tolerance" at his high school.

"Paly is supposed to be one of the most socially accepting places," Druker said in an interview with the Weekly. "We're taught not to discriminate based on religion or race or sexual orientation. If we can be tolerant of that, why can't we be tolerant of someone saying, 'We like the president'?"

The sophomore identifies as a conservative and is the treasurer of a new club for other politically like-minded students who often feel uncomfortable openly voicing their views in a community known for its liberal leanings.

This fall, junior Yasmeeen Gavande founded the Paly chapter of Young Americans for Freedom, a national advocacy organization that helps high school and college students promote conservatism. She attended a conference the organization hosted this summer at Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara and returned to school this fall inspired to address what she calls the "liberal status quo" at Paly.

"It's almost a dogma that you are a liberal," she told the Weekly. "A lot of kids won't even say they're conservative because of a fear that they'll be attacked."

The first week of school, a flyer appeared on campus inviting students to join a "conservative safe-space club." Above a photo of former President Ronald Reagan and an American flag was the headline, "Calling all against injustice and oppression!"

"Paly has become a school with a very strong liberal bias, preventing us from expressing our conservative opinions. All students deserve a safe space to express their political views and opinions," the flyer stated.

Gavande, a young woman of color, said students have called her a racist and misogynist for supporting President Donald Trump. She insisted she supports policies, not people. The infamous comments Trump made about women in a leaked Access Hollywood video don't "translate" into his efficacy as a president, she argued.

Gavande hopes the club will not only provide a way for conservative students to meet but also spur awareness and conversations with others with opposing views. She plans to bring in conservative speakers and host debates with other student groups, such as the Democrats Club and Intersectional Feminism Club.

"One of the other reasons that Yasmeeen made this club is because we want to make our mark here and say, 'We're just the same as everyone,'" Druker said. "We're no different from you."

Gavande said conservative stances on free speech, capitalism, abortion and limited government all resonate with her. She bristles at the idea of "safe spaces" at school — a new trend on college campuses in which students, particularly those who feel marginalized, are provided places where they gather and can feel safe. Critics say these spaces insulate students from diverse or opposing opinions.

Continued on page 5



An Island of Conservatives in a Sea of Liberals

Seeking like minds, students at Paly form club to discuss their political views

By Elena Kadvanly/Palo Alto Weekly

October 13, 2017

Continued from page 4

During lunch last Thursday, Gavande, Druker and six other Paly students sat together in an empty classroom for the club's second meeting. In a wide-ranging, open discussion, they talked about whether the NFL protests are justified — it's within athletes' free-speech rights to protest, but it's disrespectful to the flag, Druker argued — and the implications of the Las Vegas shooting on the Second Amendment, among other issues.

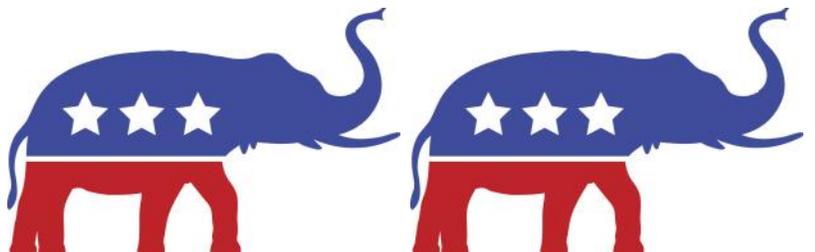
"I don't think we should ban guns, but we do need limits," one student said. Another chimed in about the current state background checks, and others voiced concern about restricting citizens' right to defend themselves with guns.

Conservative junior Gregor Tillman said he hasn't felt comfortable expressing his political views on campus before. Though he's never experienced harassment on campus, that's "because I've been hiding this for most of school."

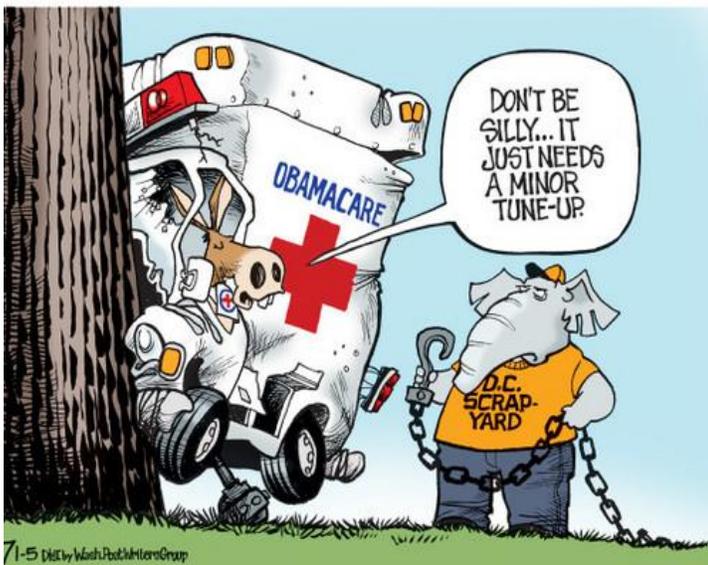
He said he's glad to have a space at school to talk to others about politics. Tillman and other members also hope to engage other students and welcome members who aren't conservative.

Druker said he was surprised not by the negative reactions to his "Make America Great Again" hat but by the positive ones. More people than he thought respected his right to freedom of speech, and some engaged in respectful debate with him.

"I hope this club will help create a higher tolerance for opposing viewpoints," he said. "I hope that it will help make a more open-minded campus by showing people that it's OK to think differently."



Political Cartoons



IN DEFENSE OF GENERAL LEE

By Edward C. Smith

Saturday, August 21, 1999 © Copyright 1999 The Washington Post<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>> Company

Let me begin on a personal note. I am a 56-year-old, third-generation, African American Washingtonian who is a graduate of the D.C. public schools and who happens also to be a great admirer of Robert E. Lee's.

Today, Lee, who surrendered his troops to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House 134 years ago, is under attack by people -- black and white -- who have incorrectly characterized him as a traitorous, slaveholding racist. He was recently besieged in Richmond by those opposed to having his portrait displayed prominently in a new park. My first visit to Lee's former home, now Arlington National Cemetery, came when I was 12 years old, and it had a profound and lasting effect on me. Since then I have visited the cemetery hundreds of times searching for grave sites and conducting study tours for the Smithsonian Institution and various other groups interested in learning more about Lee and his family as well as many others buried at Arlington.

Lee's life story is in some ways the story of early America. He was born in 1807 to a loving mother, whom he adored. His relationship with his father, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, (who was George Washington's chief of staff during the Revolutionary War) was strained at best. Thus, as he matured in years, Lee adopted Washington (who had died in 1799) as a father figure and patterned his life after him. Two of Lee's ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence, and his wife, Mary Custis, was George Washington's foster great-granddaughter. Lee was a top-of-the-class graduate of West Point, a Mexican War hero and superintendent of West Point. I can think of no family for which the Union meant as much as it did for his. But it is important to remember that the 13 colonies that became 13 states reserved for themselves a tremendous amount of political autonomy. In pre-Civil War America, most citizens' first loyalty went to their state and the local community in which they lived. Referring to the United States of America in the singular is a purely post-Civil War phenomenon.

All this should help explain why Lee declined command of the Union forces -- by Abraham Lincoln -- after the firing on Fort Sumter. After much agonizing, he resigned his commission in the Union army and became a Confederate commander, fighting in defense of Virginia, which at the outbreak of the war possessed the largest population of free blacks (more than 60,000) of any Southern state. Lee never owned a single slave, because he felt that slavery was morally reprehensible. He even opposed secession. (His slaveholding was confined to the period when he managed the estate of his late father-in-law, who had willed eventual freedom for all of his slaves.)

Regarding the institution, it's useful to remember that slavery was not abolished in the nation's capital until April 1862, when the country was in the second year of the war. The final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation was not written until September 1862, to take effect the following Jan. 1, and it was intended to apply only to those slave states that had left the Union. Lincoln's preeminent ally, Frederick Douglass, was deeply disturbed by these limitations but determined that it was necessary to suppress his disappointment and "take what we can get now and go for the rest later." The "rest" came after the war.

Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the few civil rights leaders who clearly understood that the era of the 1960s was a distant echo of the 1860s, and thus he read deeply into Civil War literature. He came to admire and respect Lee, and to this day, no member of his family, former associate or fellow activist that I know of has protested the fact that in Virginia Dr. King's birthday -- a federal holiday -- is officially celebrated as "Robert E. Lee-Stonewall Jackson-Martin Luther King Day." Lee is memorialized with a statue in the U.S. Capitol and in stained glass in the Washington Cathedral. It is indeed ironic that he has long been embraced by the city he fought against and yet has now encountered some degree of rejection in the city he fought for.

In any event, his most fitting memorial is in Lexington, Va.: a living institution where he spent his final five years. There the much-esteemed general metamorphosed into a teacher, becoming the president of small, debt-ridden Washington College, which now stands as the well-endowed Washington and Lee University.

It was in Lexington that he made a most poignant remark a few months before his death. "Before and during the War Between the States I was a Virginian," he said. "After the war I became an American."

I have been teaching college students for 30 years, and learned early in my career that the twin maladies of ignorance and misinformation are not incurable diseases. The antidote for them is simply to make a lifelong commitment to reading widely and deeply. I recommend it for anyone who would make judgment on figures from the past, including Robert E. Lee.

[Dr. Smith is co-director of the Civil War Institute at American University in Washington, D.C.]



California NAACP Calls ‘Star-Spangled Banner’ ‘Racist.’ Here’s Why Frederick Douglass Loved It.

Jarrett Stepman

November 8, 2017

Editorial Note: California’s NAACP has [launched](#) a campaign to remove “The Star-Spangled Banner” as America’s national anthem because it is “one of the most racist, pro-slavery, anti-black songs in the American lexicon.” The organization expressed support for NFL player Colin Kaepernick, who launched the recent movement to kneel for the national anthem before sports events. The following is a reprint of an August 2016 Daily Signal [article](#) about why the song was beloved by former slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

National Football League player Colin Kaepernick created a stir on Friday when he refused to stand for the national anthem at the start of a preseason game. The San Francisco 49ers quarterback cited the prevalence of racism and oppression in America as the primary reasons he sat during the playing of the song.

The Bay Area football star has been fading over the last few years and he’ll likely be doing a lot of sitting this season—for the national anthem or [otherwise](#). But Kaepernick’s protest has initiated a national debate over patriotism and respect for the American flag.

“The Star-Spangled Banner” was written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812; it was officially adopted as the national anthem in 1931 and has been a staple at sports events for more than a century. The song is filled with martial and patriotic references, finishing with a stanza that makes an ode to America as the “land of the free, and the home of the brave.”

To the majority of Americans, “The Star-Spangled Banner” is a moving tribute to what the country represents: freedom, duty, bravery, and commitment to the men and women serving in the armed forces. Clearly, Kaepernick—who makes millions of dollars playing the game he loves—has a different view of what the over two-century-old song represents.

“I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color,” Kaepernick [told the NFL media](#). “To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”

Lambasting “The Star-Spangled Banner” isn’t a new phenomenon. Liberal groups and commentators have tried to get the tune [replaced](#) for years, citing racism (Key was a slave owner) and the inherent “militarism” of the song.

An op-ed in [The Intercept](#) supported Kaepernick’s actions by dredging up a few stanzas, since removed from the modern rendition of the anthem, that explicitly mention slavery. Columnist Jon Schwarz wrote that the song “literally celebrates the murder of African-Americans.” Hyperbolic reactions to one of America’s oldest patriotic songs fly in the face of what perhaps a dwindling number of Americans understand. Although the American republic was founded with many imperfections and contradictions—such as the institution of slavery—the timeless principles laid at its foundation have led to more human prosperity for a wider variety of people than any civilization in human history.

[Frederick Douglass](#), an escaped slave who played a critical role in the abolitionist movement in the mid-19th century, had been a frequent critic of American policy and the existence of the “peculiar institution.” However, he believed that the dearly held principles of the Declaration of Independence, and its unequivocal statement that all men are “created equal,” would eventually lead to slavery’s dissolution.

Douglass pulled no punches in criticizing slavery as a massive contradiction in American life, but he understood the evils of the system would be corrected by embracing the country’s origins rather than rejecting them. He encouraged black Americans to sign up and fight for the Union under the American flag during the Civil War, played a crucial role in recruitment efforts, and convinced many former slaves to serve in the military and embrace the United States as the vessel—not the thwarter—of freedom.

Douglass was known to frequently play “The Star-Spangled Banner” [on his violin](#) for his grandchildren in the years after the war. He said in an 1871 [speech](#) at Arlington National Cemetery that “if the star-spangled banner floats only over free American citizens in every quarter of the land, and our country has before it a long and glorious career of justice, liberty, and civilization, we are indebted to the unselfish devotion of the noble army.”



California NAACP Calls 'Star-Spangled Banner' 'Racist.' Here's Why Frederick Douglass Loved It.

Jarrett Stepmán

November 8, 2017

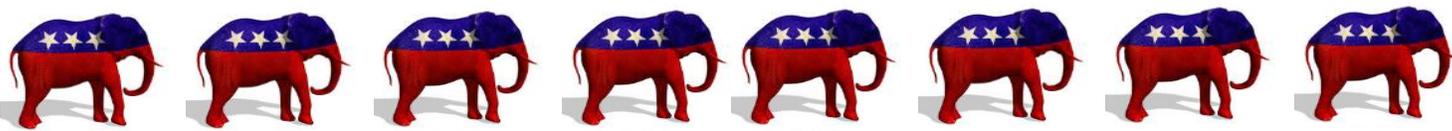
For the most part, fans and players in the NFL embrace a similar view of the United States.

Rashad Jennings, a black athlete who plays for the NFL's New York Giants channeled Douglass in his support for the national anthem and the American flag. He [told](#) the New York Daily News, "It's nice to know that we live in a country where sitting down during the anthem won't land you in jail or worse."

Jennings said he was proud to stand for the song and continued to explain why he supports the values contained in its verses: *I figure if it was the intention of our Founding Fathers to keep America a nation of slaves, then it wouldn't have chosen a song where all four verses end with 'the land of the free and the home of the brave' instead of 'land of the free, home of the slave.'*

Jennings' teammates made a point to [stand at attention](#) for the national anthem during a Saturday night game against the New York Jets. Gallup polls indicate there has been a rapid decline of American pride in their country in recent years—a [dangerous slide](#) for a multiethnic republic bound together by principles and institutions rather than national origin.

Kaepernick's outright attack on what the American flag exemplifies is just the latest sad episode of Americans' abandonment of the hallmarks of their unity and love of country. This is why it is important for Americans who still believe in what the country was founded on to stand and support the symbols of our way of life.





Legislative Report

Sam Johnson Statement on House Passage of Tax Reform Bill

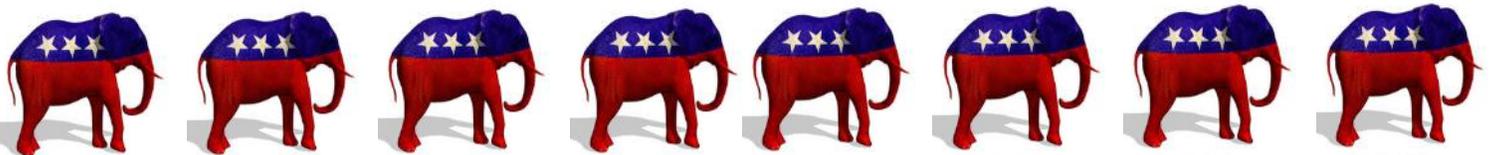
Washington, November 16, 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed its tax reform bill, the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (H.R. 1). After the vote, U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (TX-03) released the following statement:

American families need tax relief that *rewards* their hard work and *boosts* the economy through pro-growth business reforms. I'm encouraged that today's bill works toward that goal by making the tax code simpler and fairer. I'm also glad to see some of my commonsense bills included in the legislation. As Congress takes the next steps toward tax reform, I will continue to do everything I can to make tax reform the best it can be – reform that works for the middle class. Reforming America's complicated and broken tax code is too important to not get *right*.

The following legislation introduced by Congressman Johnson is included in the tax reform bill:

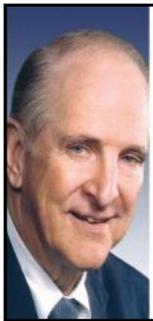
- **Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act (H.R. 2149).** This bill would prevent illegal immigrants from getting the refundable portion of the Child Tax Credit by requiring individuals to provide work-eligible Social Security numbers when claiming the credit.
- **EITC Eligibility Verification Act (H.R. 3483).** This bill would stop individuals who are not authorized to work in the U.S. from claiming the earned income tax credit (EITC). Specifically, it would require individuals claiming the EITC to provide a work-eligible Social Security number.
- **Savings Enhancement by Alleviating Leakage in 401(k) Savings Act (H.R. 2030).** The SEAL Act would provide an extended repayment period for individuals who take out loans from their 401(k)s and later leave their jobs. Individuals would have until the tax filing deadline instead of only 60 days. Moreover, this bill would allow workers who happen to take hardship withdrawals to continue saving for retirement.



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November 2017

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2018 PRW Officer Installation

will be conducted by

State Representative Jodie Laubenberg



Congratulations to the 2018 PRW Officers

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2nd VP/Membership, Anne Logan

3rd VP/Awards, Rita Greenwell

Recording Secretary, Jeanne Hurlebaus

Corresponding Secretary, Susan Bushey

Treasurer, Lynn McCoy



Officers and Birthdays

PRW OFFICERS for 2017

Denise Midgley, President972-596-8126

Jennifer Groysman, 1st. VP Programs...972-473-7292

Catherine Gibb, 2nd. VP Membership.....972-578-0704

Anne Logan, Recording Secretary.....972-675-8112

Susan Bushey, Corresponding Secretary972-895-0213

Lynn McCoy, Treasurer.....972-596-0206



December Birthdays

PRW Members

Kathy Ward 12/1

Drinda Randall 12/2

Dharon Ellison 12/3

Donna Krauss 12/7

Stephanie Moncrief 12/20

Denise Midgley 12/22

Associate Members & Sponsors

Robyn Shaheen 12/3

George Flint 12/11

Pat Fallon 12/19

Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for

PRW's January Meeting

Tuesday, January 16th, 1 pm





Plano Republican Women
P.O. Box 940461
Plano, TX 75094



Plano Republican Women

**meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month
(except June, July & December)**

Reflections on Spring Creek

1901 East Spring Creek Parkway

just 1½ blocks east of Central Expressway in Plano

11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program

Lunch is \$20 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

You do not have to have lunch to attend,

But please RSVP to

rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org