

# Proud District 17 Democrats

## Monthly Meeting!

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Info Exchange at 6:30  
Meeting 7-9 pm

**Pyle Center**

655 E Southern Ave, Tempe  
(just west of the Library)

Gather with energized  
Democrats to get more  
involved in local, state,  
and national politics!

## Featured Speakers

**Todd Langfried**

Maricopa County Democrats

**George Cunningham**

Gov Napolitano's Office

**Genie Zavaleta**

The Dream Act

Questions?

Contact Doug Mings  
480-628-2481

dougming@gmail.com

## Legislative Shadows

On March 13th, LD17 State Representative David Schapira hosted two constituents, Bob Mings and Craig McDermott, as they shadowed him at the legislature. With Rep. Schapira, "shadowing" meant more than "a tour and a handshake."

It meant sitting with him as he worked the phones and hallway to gather the votes needed to defeat one bill and watching a lobbyist from Superintendent Tom Horne's office work to convince David to vote for a bill that Horne supported.

It meant joining the House Democratic caucus as they learned about various bills they would be considering in the near future. With over 1400 bills and strike-everything amendments, meetings like this are vital to the ability of representatives to understand the bills on which they will vote.

It meant sitting with Rep. Schapira during a floor session of the House and watching the bill that he had worked to defeat, HB2382, an act that would increase fees for state-mandated teacher certification tests, go down 26-31.

The highlight of Bob and Craig's day was when Rep. Schapira unexpectedly (for them, anyway) introduced them to the assembled legislators and onlookers in the gallery. The moment was captured for posterity on AZ Capitol Television and is available [http://azleg.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=3](http://azleg.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3).

The day was highly entertaining, informative, and educational for Bob and Craig, and they were very grateful to Rep. Schapira for including them in all of his duties and activities. Interested in shadowing one of our District 17 legislators? Contact:

Sen. Meg Burton-Cahill  
mburtoncahill@azleg.gov; 602-926-4124

Rep. Ed Ableser  
eableser@azleg.gov; 602-926-4118

Rep. David Schapira  
dschapira@azleg.gov; 602-926-3028

--Craig McDermott



**Check out Craig's blog on local politics::**  
[cpmazrandommusings.blogspot.com](http://cpmazrandommusings.blogspot.com)

## Legislative Update

**Sen. Meg Burton-Cahill** has recovered enough from foot surgery to ditch her crutches and trek cross-country for a forum on a topic important to Arizonans: affordable prescription drugs. "I'd like to see us find ways to-keep costs down." Burton-Cahill said. "It's a big burden for a lot of people: employers, large and small, and consumers, young and old."

She has spent much her legislative career urging common-sense reforms on drug-industry practices. This session alone, she has sponsored bills to increase pricing transparency and keep pharmacies from selling drugs to marketing firms. "You have to have a license to cut hair in Arizona, yet those marketing drugs to doctors do not have to know anything."

**Rep. Ed Ableser** worked behind the scenes to ensure that state lawmakers knew exactly how many lives of Arizonans were being sacrificed for the pointless Iraqi war and occupation. He worked with Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) and two other senators to have them read the names of the 101 Arizona soldiers who have sacrificed their lives. The reading was repeated in the House. The act garnered much media attention, as well as Republican criticism of Johnson. Ableser said it was important to remind lawmakers of the human cost of war.

**Rep. David Schapira** made recent headlines when he sidestepped decorum at the Capitol and called a bill like he saw it: "This bill is terrible," he told the *Republic*. What they didn't mention is what prompted him to let loose with the no-nonsense descriptor: a bill that would increase the financial burden on our already-underpaid teachers.

"We killed House Bill 2382, which would remove caps on costs of teacher-proficiency exams," Schapira said. "We force teachers to take these tests, and now we say 'sky's the limit' on what they can be charged?" Until he stepped up, the bill was received warmly. "No one had opposed it," Schapira said. "I called it a terrible bill, and Sen. Robson (R-Ahwatukee) told me I was impugning the character of House members." Enough House members sided with Schapira: the bill was defeated.

--Jason Ludwig

## NEW Film Series

*The Great Warming*

3/19, Escalante Center  
6:30pm, Free Admission  
For more info, call Doug  
Mings at 480-628-2481

## Democrats in the Park!

Sun, 4/15, 1pm at Papago  
Park. Bring a dish to share.  
For more info, call Doug  
Mings at 480-628-2481.

## Our Website is Up!

Kudoes to Matt Moellering  
for designing our  
action-packed website!  
Check it out:

[www.d17dems.org](http://www.d17dems.org)

# DISTRICT 17 DEMOCRATS

P.O. Box 26047, Tempe, AZ 85285

**Next Meeting: April 3  
at the Pyle Center!**

We are on the WEB:  
www.d17dems.org

<b>April Events!</b>	<b>2</b> Al Gore at ASU Gammage. Sold-out.	<b>3</b> District 17 Democrats Meeting 7-9pm. Pyle Center <b>All are welcome</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Day at the Capitol. Shadow a Di17 legislator. Call Bob Mings: 480-968-1815	<b>11-15</b> Register Voters, Mar County Fair: 602-298-0503; <b>11<sup>th</sup>: Happy Hour</b> , Sparky's Grill, 6:30	<b>12</b> Arizonans <b>4 Obama</b> ASU's Memorial Union, Rm 224, 7:30pm	<b>13</b> ASU Young Democrats Memorial Union Rm 302, 3pm	<b>14</b> Maricopa Dems at D-Back game. Proceeds benefit dems. <a href="http://maricopademocrat.com">maricopademocrat.com</a>
<b>15</b> Walk at 10AM Democrats in the Park, Papago Park, 1-3 pm	<b>16</b> Nucleus Club: Thom Hartmann, Air America, 11:30am 602-234-6545	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Film Screening at Escalante Center The Great Warming. 6:30pm	<b>20</b> Night of a 1000 Dinners. Fundraiser for land-mine removal. 480-966-6053	<b>21.</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> LD17 Precinct Working Meeting N Tempe Community Ctr. 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> Arizonans <b>4 Obama</b> ASU, MU, Rm 224, 7:30pm	<b>27</b> ASU Young Democrats Memorial Union Rm 302. 3pm	<b>28</b> Precinct Walk to victory; <b>register voters.</b> Ed.Hermes@asu.edu
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> ASU Young Democrats Memorial Union Rm 302, 3pm	<b>5</b>

## HELP DISTRICT 17 ELECT DEMOCRATS PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Please send your check to District 17 Democrats, PO Box 26047, Tempe, AZ 85285.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign finance laws require that you fill out this information below. *Donations are not tax deductible.*

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for: \_\_\_\$17 \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$35 \_\_\_\$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_Other

**Thank you for your commitment to turning AZ blue!**

## Save us \$\$!

To receive this newsletter by email, send your email address to:  
laurenkuby@gmail.com

## Volunteers Needed

Help register progressive minds in our district: Saturdays at the Tempe Library. Call Joan at 480-947-7639.