



NEWPORT HARBOR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Serving Greater Newport Harbor Area Since 1952

UPDATE

March 2015

Editor: Donna Loren



Coming March 26, 2015

Dr. Duke Pesta, "A Case Against Common Core"

Common Core. You've heard the elites - from both parties - tell us that it is going to rescue American education, and put our nation back on top of the world academically. You've heard the claim that it was "state-led" - that a bunch of governors got together and hired education experts who defined what students should know in English and Math before they graduate high school. Armed with this knowledge, the elites claim, American students will be prepared for success in college and career in the 21st Century. To quote *Toy Story's* Buzz Lightyear, "To infinity ... and beyond!"

Those of us back on planet earth - and not of the elite mindset - have questions. Why did the federal government bribe states to accept this new, untested program? Why do they keep telling us that Common Core is "only standards, not curriculum," yet the curriculum has changed drastically in every classroom? Why is so much money being spent to retrain teachers and purchase new classroom materials, when we have no evidence that this new approach is beneficial? Euclidean geometry has worked pretty well for the past 2,400 years - why is it no longer deemed worth teaching?

Here to clear things up for us at our March luncheon is Dr. Duke Pesta. Dr. Pesta earned his Ph.D. in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature from Purdue University, and is currently on faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. In addition to Shakespeare and Renaissance literature, Dr. Pesta is a scholar of the Bible, Russian literature and C.S. Lewis. But more importantly for us, Dr. Pesta has become an expert on the Common Core. He is a firm believer in educational reform, but not in the form of the federally funded Common Core, which is why he has chosen to commit himself to enlightening the public about it. Dr. Pesta will explain how this experiment came to be,

what it consists of, why it is toxic, and what steps we can take to right this wrong.

Anyone with a child, grandchild, niece, or nephew - anyone who cares about the future of this great nation - should attend our March luncheon and take notes. Do not fool yourself by thinking that because the children you love attend private schools they will not be affected by Common Core. It has metastasized into every aspect of K-12 education. The elites have misused their power; it is incumbent upon us to understand what we are fighting - and fight it with all we've got. Please plan to join us on March 26. Dr. Pesta will inspire as he educates us.



Luncheon

Thursday, March 26, 2015

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Pacific Club
4110 MacArthur Blvd.
Newport Beach 92660

***Reservations requested to ensure
seating availability***

***\$35 check payable to NHRW
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Saturday, March 21st, \$45 if later.***

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Email Sue if you have any questions

***email: sbennitt@sbcglobal.net
phone: 949-644-0539***

NEWPORT HARBOR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

President's Message by Bonnie O'Neil

What do you think is the most serious political problem in America today? Sadly, there are so many to consider, the question is difficult to answer. But I suspect your list of possibilities might include the following:

- A sluggish economy, growing numbers of people on welfare, and our 18-trillion-dollar national debt.
- The lack of enforcement of our immigration laws that has resulted in porous borders, millions of illegal immigrants, unprecedented amounts of smuggled drugs, and terrorists illegally entering America.
- Our education system that has been hijacked by liberals at the college level, and most recently in our elementary and high schools via Common Core.
- A media that no longer reports the news, but crafts it according to its political viewpoints.
- Politicians whose decisions are influenced by how they benefit rather than by how the people they represent benefit.
- An escalation of immorality that permeates most every part of our lives, and is even seeping into our churches.

Too many of our citizens are ignoring, accepting, or are unaware that if we continue on this course without a correction in direction, we will lose what generations of American patriots fought and died to protect for us: freedom, liberty, prosperity, and justice. Without those pillars we will deteriorate as a nation; as have other countries.

BUT WAIT! Don't be *too* discouraged. There is good news. I can still write those words and you can read them without fear of reprisal. There are still Americans willing to fight to maintain what we have and take back what has been lost. Indeed, this battle is not new. Every generation has been tested by those who have different visions for America, but those who love freedom have always prevailed.

America still has strong, moral patriots willing to work and battle against the creeping evil disguised as progress by liberals or excused as inevitable by the weak among us.

Are you one of those strong patriots? Of course you are! It is why you joined NHRW. We are dedicated to keeping the gifts our forefathers gave us, and together we will resist the liberals' plans to "fundamentally change our country". We will fight to protect our freedoms and liberty, for the sake of our families. This quote has never been more true:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.

We don't pass it to our children in the bloodstream.

It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

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When you follow NHRW, you will get information about our luncheon, speakers, photos and more!

NHRW FEBRUARY LUNCHEON - CHARLES C. JOHNSON, GUEST SPEAKER

BY ANITA MEISTER-BOYD

What if everyday people could be connected with experts and sources to break news and get rewarded for their effort? This is the mission of *Gotnews.com* -- to make common people seekers of the truth and producers of the news in order ultimately to confront the Left in media, academia, and government. The concept is the brainchild of Charles C. Johnson, our February luncheon guest speaker, who was mentored by the late Andrew Breitbart.

Though only 26 years old, Johnson already has had quite a journalistic impact. As a result of his collaborations, he concluded that Lois Lerner's growing visibility at various functions made her a window to the IRS. Research revealed that Lerner not only granted tax-exempt foundation status to the Barack H. Obama Foundation, headed by the President's half brother, but fast-tracked it to approval in record time within a month of filing. Conversely, Tea Party groups were peppered with pages of questions and made to wait years for approval. IRS abuses didn't stop there. Within the government, a computer wiz designed a program with the capability of pulling up a spreadsheet and accessing any individual. It became clear to Johnson that IRS data could be leaked and quite often had been, with the sharing of data across different branches of government. This was true in particular for groups opposing gay marriage. Johnson characterized these new IRS assaults as a reaction of the Left to the Citizens United decision and the fear that if they did not restrict the Tea Party movement, Obama would not be able to accomplish his aggressive agenda. In his book, "The Truth About the IRS Scandals," Johnson discusses the increasing damage the IRS can do to its enemies because of modern technology.

More recently, with his team of everyday "reporters," Johnson is credited with exposing the Brian-Williams-dead-body-floating-in-the-French-Quarter tall tale, the twittering frenzy that forced retraction of a University of Virginia student's false rape accusation (designed to end due process rights on campuses), and the publicizing of two *New York Times* reporters' addresses in retribution for their publishing the innocent Ferguson cop's address. While it is obvious that Johnson is no friend of mainstream media and liberal causes (in December alone, there were four "hit" pieces written about him by the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Gawker*, and *Mother Jones*), he also finds himself an object of Republican ridicule, for his breaking news on the Cochran campaign pay-for-votes scheme and the racist flyers against McDaniels in the Mississippi Senate

race, and for his condemnation of the Republican Party which has never held the IRS accountable for its targeting of individuals and groups, and which he says has learned to care about the IRS scandal only after Republicans realized they could use it to raise money.

Johnson is encouraged by the success of *Gotnews* in disseminating truth to a receptive audience. He trusts in American ingenuity to get around the newly announced FCC net neutrality regulations, but believes these regulations ultimately will be reversed in court. Between paper trail, videos and digital content, so much information is available that anyone can participate in news gathering and production, such as in the leaks of the Jonathan Gruber videos, and he encouraged us to participate, stating that all it takes is passion and persistence to uncover the truth. He envisions a new type of news consumer -- one that is skeptical about politics, government and the dishonest manner in which the war on terror has been framed; and one that will not wait for news reports on snail-like mainstream media but instead will do his/her own fact checking using high-level Internet research, and tools to encrypt and understand the credibility of source documents. Millennials are already well suited to these roles, as they get their news almost exclusively from the Internet; and Johnson expects their skepticism over Obama and the government to grow as details of Obama's sordid past are leaked with more frequency as he approaches the exit door. One of the greatest challenges Johnson perceives in his new platform is developing a recipe for conveying information in an emotional narrative appealing to human beings living in the real world.

Similar to James O'Keefe's model, the citizen-journalist will be required to have a guerrilla warfare mindset. Mainstream media is a business whose purpose is to set the narrative, suppressing the truth. We need to figure out how to replace the media as a business. From the economic side, Johnson quickly concludes that over time, mainstream media is just not cost-competitive because it can't break and produce news on the kind of shoestring budget that an army of citizen-journalists can, nor can it survive when the citizen-journalist army produces refuting documents in real time debunking the mainstream narrative they just spent the whole day developing. Johnson believes the next step in dismantling mainstream media will be to go on the attack with mega-leaks challenging the ability of the government to lie, such as the West Anglia emails showing global warming alarmists were lying.



Sherree Vaughan, Anne Skiver,
Suzanne Richmond, Lucy Erickson



Speaker Charles C. Johnson



Kate Keating, Robin Sanders



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NHRW
February Luncheon
Pacific Club



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Charles C. Johnson signing books
for eager readers



Lisa Grundy Johnson, Fran Applegate, Jill Aschieris

President Bonnie O'Neil's Letter to the Editor Regarding the UCI American Flag Debate

Dear Editor,

Six U.C.I. students, all in a governing position at the university, created a firestorm when they voted to remove the American flag from the student governing lobby. As soon as that information was leaked, the public, as well as some U.C.I. students, responded with an understandable outrage. People wanted to know more about those students and the reasons they wanted to remove our nation's flag.

Within days, we learned the identities of the six students who voted for the removable: Negar Fatahi, Mathew Guevara, Mathew Tsai, Naty Rico, Khaaldah Sidney, and John Salazar. While they and the university are now backtracking with excuses for their action, the proof of their intentions can be seen in the document they submitted, which outlined their reasoning for the flag removal. The following is just one of twenty negatives they listed, but it is enough to allow us a window into their reasoning. They stated: "Flags not only serve as symbols of patriotism or weapons for nationalism, but also construct cultural mythologies and narratives that in turn charge nationalistic sentiments." Really? I was taught and have come to know our American flag as a symbol of liberty, freedom, and democracy. To most Americans it represents the spirit of our people and fills us with pride whenever we stand and salute "Old Glory".

Could the students' lack of patriotism have originated from their home, their families? Were these young adults born and raised in America, or are they foreign students loyal to their home country? Or, are the six students' 20 complaints against our flag due to what they have been taught at U.C.I. by their professors? U.C.I. and other American universities are gaining a reputation for becoming "islands of liberal indoctrination", due to the growing number of professors who lean Left. Further proof of a liberal bias can be found in who the schools invite as graduation speakers. The top 100 universities in America prefer left leaning commencement speakers by a ratio of seven-to-one. It is not surprising to learn that same seven-to-one ratio has been the trend in hiring liberal leaning professors over conservatives.

The obvious question and concern is whether U.C.I. professors and others in prestigious universities are guilty of transferring their liberal philosophy into classrooms where they tend to indoctrinate rather than teach vulnerable students. An article in the L.A. Times entitled "Lefitism at UC Leaves Many with Unbalanced Education" quotes a study that concluded: "Cal is a hotbed of leftist faculty and politically correct thinking, where many students are receiving a weak education". Students who only learn one viewpoint on controversial issues are not prepared for a society in which they will be challenged with differing perspectives. With a compromised outlook, these students risk succeeding in specific fields in which a one-sided frame of reference proves to be a disadvantage.

Students also complain that professors continually point out America's perceived failures, without balancing the negatives with our many achievements, many of which propelled us into becoming the great nation we now enjoy. Our borders do not prohibit people from leaving, but instead are challenged to find ways to manage the huge number of foreigners who want to come in. We must be doing something right!

What are professors conveying when they encourage students to consider themselves as "citizens of the world", not of America? No wonder those 6 students had no trouble making the decision to remove the flag, if they have been indoctrinated with anti-patriotic philosophies and a one-world concept that discourages loyalty to our country.

Perhaps the "flap" over the flag has opened a door for all to see that a one-sided political and philosophical perspective in classrooms can prove detrimental, even if that may not have been the professor's intent. The solution may be for taxpayers, parents, and students to request fair hiring practices, which in turn will provide students the opportunity to hear and learn a more balanced and open-minded political perspective; one in which all will benefit.

Bonnie O'Neil, Newport Beach, 949-645-4450

What is our take-away from Bonnie's letter?

Perhaps we can ask our own difficult questions. Twitter, Facebook, email, and write letters to other editors, university presidents, high school and grade school principals. Is it possible that we can still take back our country?

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NHRW LUNCHEON - Dr. Duke Pesta

Assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, has been a vocal and high-profile opponent of Common Core

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DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR THE NHRW SCHOLARSHIP

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**NHRW LUNCHEON - Ann McElhinney. International Journalist
-Documentary Film Director & Producer**

Ann McElhinney is a journalist, film producer, and director. Her latest project has been the most successful Indiegogo (crowdfunding) campaign ever. It is a film about Dr. Kermit Gosnell, the doctor who ran a medical clinic in Philadelphia where he killed thousands of babies, and abused their mothers. The Gosnell case shows not only the lengths to which the mainstream media will go to hide stories they don't agree with; it also shows how government agencies paid for by taxpayers collude with them.

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**NHRW LUNCHEON - Ann-Marie Murrell CEO/Editor-in-Chief of
PolitiChicks.com, nominated "People's Choice Blogger of
the Year" at CPAC 2013.**

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With thanks,
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NEWPORT HARBOR REPUBLICAN WOMEN

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Questions: Barbara Brawner, Membership Chairman (949) 675-2151

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