

You have received this e-mail because the LBNL Retirees Association (EX-Ls) is inviting you to join us at our upcoming quarterly luncheon. You will continue to receive further information from EX-Ls regarding other lunches and events. Hope to see you there! If you would like to change your e-mail address please send an e-mail to: <http://retirement.berkeley.edu/ex-ls> with the words "Address Change" in the Subject line. Include your name and the old and new e-mail addresses in the body of the e-mail.

EX-Ls Retirement Association – News Online – Luncheon Announcement

EX-Ls May Luncheon Registration Form

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017

Where: Hs Lordships Restaurant, 199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley Marina

Time: 11:30 AM – Lunch Served at 12:00 – Concludes at 2:00 PM

Location: Windsor Court Banquet Room – to the right of the entrance door

No-Host Bar Service: Located in the banquet room – opens at 11:30

Service – Buffet: Garden Salad with two dressings + Sliced Seasonal Fruit, Baked Herb Chicken, Pan Seared Cod, Portobello Mushroom Ravioli, Rice Pilaf, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, Assorted Desserts

Cost: \$30 per person

Speaker: Dr. Thomas Mann, Senior Fellow in Governance Studies, at The Brookings Institution and Resident Scholar, Institute for Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley. Mann is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His latest book, written with his longtime collaborator Norman Ornstein, is a New York Times bestseller entitled *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism* (2012). A new expanded paper edition was released in 2016. Mann and Ornstein were named by Foreign Policy Magazine among the "100 Top Global Thinkers of 2012" for "diagnosing America's political dysfunction."

Title of Talk: "POLITICS AND POLICY IN THE ERA OF TRUMP"

Biography: B.A. in political science at the University of Florida and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. Mann has taught at many universities including Princeton and the University of Virginia; conducted polls for congressional candidates; and chaired the Board of Overseers of the National Election Studies.

Abstract: Most of President Trump's supporters reported they voted against Clinton, not for him. This is not surprising in light of our tribal politics and negative partisanship but it was even more than that. Most didn't believe Trump was the most qualified candidate, had the requisite experience and personality to be commander-in-chief, or made a practice of telling the truth. Nonetheless, a small number of voters strategically located in a handful of swing states overcame those doubts and took a flyer on the promise of change, a whack at the establishment, and an opportunity to express their understandable frustration and resentment of economic and cultural changes.

Trump had the skills of a salesman in recognizing a market and in framing his candidacy to fill it. He rolled over the rest of the Republican field for the presidential nomination, which instantly made him a serious competitor for the presidency. Unlike right-wing populists in other countries and America's past, he was not consigned to the fringes of politics by having to operate outside of the major parties. The Republican Party, which has radicalized in recent years and played Tea Party and white working class supporters as chumps, was vulnerable to a Trump candidacy. He saw his opportunities and he took them.

Trump's shortcomings, evident in the campaign but apparently not disqualifying - his lack of experience, knowledge or interest in government and public policy, the absence of any coherent ideology or world-view, his limitless craving for wealth and fame, his affinity for autocrats and kleptocrats, his obliviousness to democratic norms, and his complete lack of what the framers of the Constitution called 'republican virtue' - have carried over to his first months in office. Chaos, disruption and deflection are the order of the day. No attempt to normalize him and his presidency, however well-intended, can disguise just how abnormal they are. We are now experiencing many firsts in American history and none of them are positive.

The US and many other countries around the world have experienced growing economic inequality, the lingering aftermath of a global financial crisis, disruptions fueled by technology and globalization, and surges of refugees (in Europe) or immigrants that have historically been the seedbed of public unrest and extreme political movements. Populism, nationalism, nativism and protectionism often flourish in this environment. The question is whether those empowered by these appeals pursue and deliver policies responsive to the needs of those bearing the brunt of these developments.

President Trump has not yet said or done anything in office that promises to deliver help for the working and middle class - as he put it, for 'the forgotten men and women of America.' His embrace of the Republican plan to 'repeal and replace Obamacare' put him on the side of the wealthy who would benefit from tax cuts at the cost of millions of Americans (many of them Trump voters) losing health insurance. His regulatory reforms favor corporations over consumers. His tax plan would benefit the wealthy, not the struggling working class. His budget cuts would eliminate much of what government now does to boost economic activity and job training in rural areas and small towns. Just as disconcerting and even more dangerous are his initial forays into foreign policy, where mistakes can cause global insecurity as well as widespread suffering and death.

These times call for vigilance, not just accommodating the abnormal in hopes that it will do little harm and eventually go away.

A Note from Lee Schroeder, EX-Ls President

As discussed at previous luncheons, the EX-Ls Board of Directors are requesting a voluntary contribution of \$15 per retiree to help support on-going EX-L activities/costs. Further explanation of these costs will appear in the President's message in the upcoming May 2017, Newsletter. Your \$15.00 contribution can be included with your payment on this registration form or it can be paid at the time of the luncheon.

REGISTRATION FORM: See you at the May 18 luncheon at Hs Lordships Restaurant. Be sure to make reservations by *Sat. May 13, 2017*. **Mail To:** Vicky Jared, 4849 John Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553

I Plan to Attend (Name): _____

I will bring _____ guest(s) Name of guest(s): _____

Buffet Service - Advance choice is not required **\$30.00 per person – Check payable to EX-Ls**

EX-Ls Voluntary \$15.00 Contribution: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

First Time Attending Luncheon? _____ **LBNL Retiree?** _____ **UC Retiree?** _____

Willing to carpool: As Rider? _____ As Driver?: _____ Other Needs?: _____

Need to sit closer to the screen? _____ Buffet Assistance? _____