

All Politics is Local  
10-24 2016 By Harry Zirkelbach  
*Stars and Sun date 34591*

I want to scare everyone. Here it is. There is something even scarier than any event this Halloween night, which is, designed to "scare" all yearly. I refer to that every four year event, the National Election on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. That has inched beyond contentiousness in our lifetime. Now, I should have your attention.

I would like to take you back to an earlier time, when as a child I was aware of the friendship between Mother's family and the political faces that operated in the Pittsburgh, Pa, area. Every one seemed a friend to those elected to any office, and these people knew and trusted one another. On both sides, elected and voter, many on a first name basis.

Two weeks ago a former resident of Windsor Gardens invited Barbara and me to a political meal that harked back to those very days. A candidate had invited him to a free dinner. Bring a friend.

There are 65 Colorado House Districts in Colorado; nine are in Denver. This candidate for House District 9, Democrat Paul Rosenthal, seeks re-election, The open invitation, meet the candidate, discuss issues, enjoy a "India" meal with him at the Yak and Yeti Restaurant, 9755 East Hampton, southeast Denver.

Even before the announced time, all nooks of this large Restaurant were crammed with his friends, and the aroma of food ethnic India dishes bathed these smiling faces. The candidate visited those already served, saying a few words here and there, with little hint of politics.

At the appointed time, only stragglers still in the serving line, Mr Rosenthal, joined and a dozen India musicians and colorfully garbed dancers, who played and swirled on the small stage. Then Paul introduced himself and colleague Lois Court, who had been serving with Paul in the Colorado House these past two years.

Immediately, a problem. Their microphone was inoperative. Mr Rosenthal simply raised his voice to just a few decibels below the constant hum of the happy crowd. Much of this is what I think was said.



Suggesting that those present knew his position on legislative issues, he and Lois Court agreed to discuss any feature of the Constitutional, Statutory and Referred Amendments on this year's ballots. A welcome idea.

The first Ballot issue mentioned was dissected, Pro and Con; we were left to make up our mind. From the crowd, a question. When assured that this question was not relevant to the issue, the host decided to ask the band and entertainers to begin playing again. They did. The host and his guest left the stage. And this was the last hint of politics that glorious free-meal afternoon.

It is unlikely that any mind was better informed when leaving the building, but everyone was smiling and claiming to know a new friend in their dinner companions.

This day was not unlike my happy childhood memory of a political meal with relatives, years ago.

