

Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA



The Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Monthly Newsletter: October 21, 2015

Megan English Braga, Chair, opened the meeting. **Tom Lebach** asked that we all welcome **Simone**, the newborn baby which **Megan** has recently adopted. All wished **Megan** and her family well and welcomed **Simone**, the newest member of the Falmouth Democrats.

Matt Patrick announced that he is running for the 3rd Barnstable District Representative against incumbent **David Vieira**. He pointed to his website: electmattpatrick.org and to his Facebook page. He asked for our support for his candidacy.

Sandy Faiman-Silva from the Coalition for Social Justice asked members to sign a petition which would create a state constitutional amendment and ask for an additional 4% annual income tax on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1 million. The revenue from this tax would be used for public education and infrastructure repair and maintenance.



Sandy Faiman-Silva

Megan English Braga announced that **Representative Keating** would hold office hours October 30th in Falmouth at Town Hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss issues affecting Falmouth residents.



Matt Patrick

We voted on two items: members of the FDTC were asked to vote to support Article 21 on the Town Meeting Warrant to ask the state to divest pensions from fossil fuels and to vote on supporting a resolution asking for safety measures to be taken at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. Only dues paying members of the FDTC could vote and both measures were passed.

Martha Gillis set up a drawing for prizes of cloth bags from the Democratic Convention with the words, Mass. Democrats on the bag. Seven members of the audience won a bag.

Roger Kligler asked for support for HR 1991 which supports the Death with Dignity movement in MA. Our representative **Tim Madden** is one of the cosponsors and the hearing will be on Tuesday the 27th of October at the State House. Get in touch with **Roger** if you would like to go up to Boston to show support at rkligler@comcast.net.

Megan introduced **Robert Pelletreau**, a resident of Falmouth, as our speaker of the evening. His topic was “ The U.S. and Iran After the Agreement.” **Mr. Pelletreau** served as U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Tunisia, and Bahrain. In addition he served as Assistant Secretary of State of Near Eastern Affairs from 1994-96.

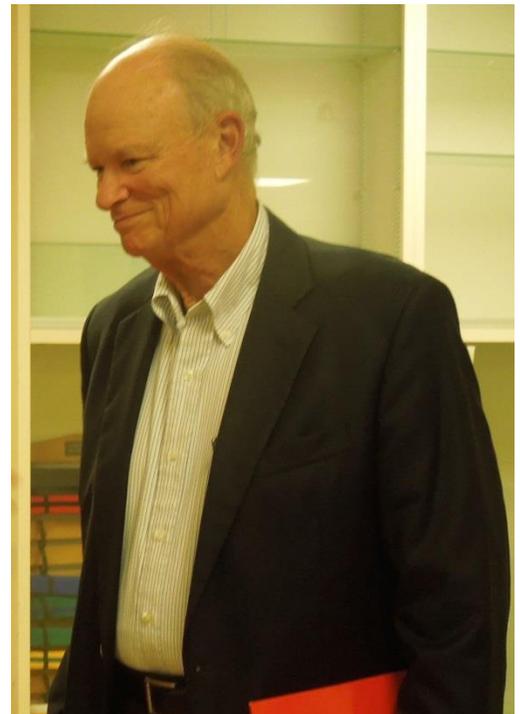
Mr. Pelletreau praised the Iran agreement which Obama recently concluded and the Iranian parliament finally approved. He gave kudos to **Secretary of State John Kerry** for his massive effort to draw so many together to fashion the agreement. Obama changed the foreign policy away from seeing Iran as the “axis of evil”, and as sanctions hurt Iran more and more, negotiations became possible. **Mr. Pelletreau** feels this agreement is the best that can be achieved and may be the longest of our arms control agreements of modern times. It holds the promise of a non- nuclear Iran for at least the next 15 years, a more cooperative relationship between Iran and the U.S. and the possibility of Iran’s reintegration into the international family of nations.

The negotiations for the agreement took over 18 months and the final document is 180 pages. It is a rolling agreement with not everything happening at once. The final agreement increases the amount of time it would take Iran to acquire enough material for one bomb from a few months to a year; reduces its stockpiles of enriched uranium; reduces the number of centrifuges and prevents production of plutonium. All actions have to be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The result of this agreement is that international businesses are flooding to Iran in advance of Implementation Day when the agreement is ratified and sanctions will be lifted. He did not expect the U.S. Embassy to open but thinks there will be a few American diplomats in Iran at the Australian Embassy which is handling our business there.

Mr. Pelletreau completed his talk by stating that the troublesome question of the future is how a more confident Iran will operate in the Middle East. For example, how will Russia and Iran relate to each other over Syria? He feels that over the long term advantages to the U.S. will emerge. We have closed off nuclear potential for more than 15 years and opened a closed society. Those countries with nuclear supplies will refuse to sell to Iran and thus we will move toward meeting the 21st century challenge of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

After the talk, Town Committee member **Rafiq Islam** briefly spoke on the issues of internal warfare in Bangladesh where he had been to help with attempts to bring peace among warring factions. He asked us to spread the word that his



Bob Pelletreau



Rafiq Islam

country needs help in bringing conflict to a close.

Calendar:

The November Monthly Meeting is November 18th , 7 p.m. at the Gus Canty Center. Our speaker is Town Committee Member **Jessica Lambert**, Chief Information Officer for Next Generation Energy Initiative. She will speak on issues for Massachusetts following the closing of the Plymouth Nuclear Power Plant and on other energy issues of concern for Massachusetts residents.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor and **Martha Gillis**, Photographer

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Annual Membership Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31, 2016

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Address and Telephone:

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