20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

RECLAIMING OUR DEMOCRACY

Healing the break between people and government

SAM DALEY-HARRIS
Founder of RESULTS

Foreword by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus
New chapter on Citizens Climate Lobby
“Optimism is a political act. Those who benefit from the status quo are perfectly happy with a large population of people who think nothing is going to get any better. In fact, these days, cynicism is obedience. What's really radical is being willing to look right at the magnitude and difficulty of the problems we face and still insist that we can solve those problems.”

Alex Steffen
Thank you
Activism fits on a spectrum. Resistance and deep advocacy are just two points on that spectrum.
My talk will focus on one aspect on the advocacy spectrum, deep, bipartisan, relationship-building advocacy. The resistance movement is a different, equally important point on the spectrum.

I want my talk to inspire, give you clarity on your activism.
Are Shouting and Silence Our Only Two Options:

Bringing Bipartisanship and Transformation to Citizen Activism
1. You can make a profound difference on big issues with your voice as a citizen.
2. You probably haven’t because of your sense of powerlessness and resignation about politics, especially federal politics.
3. If you find an organization committed to dissolving the powerlessness you can make that profound difference.
My story: from hopelessness to action.
Global Child Deaths Per Day (UNICEF)

- 1983: 41,000
- 2016: 15,300
In a *New York Times* interview in 2013, former UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Kul Gautam said:

“To a great extent, it was because of the receptivity created by RESULTS that the U.S. funding for child survival increased so dramatically. And that led many other countries to come on board.”
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<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>$829.5 mil.</td>
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In the 17 years since the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria was launched it, along with its partners, have saved 27 million lives and provided 17.5 million people with antiretroviral therapy in 2017....

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Read excerpt from *Race Against Time*

By Stephen Lewis
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If our voices as citizens can make such a profound difference on big issues,

Why don’t more of us get involved?

Our sense of powerlessness.

Civic Courage
Empowering Citizen Action
“....Our real problem is not a heating planet or rampant malnutrition....We only have one real problem: our own feelings of powerlessness to manifest the solutions right in front of our noses.”

Frances Moore Lappé
*Getting a Grip*

[The gift of the groups Civic Courage coaches, their deep commitment to dissolving the powerlessness.]
Again, if our voices as citizens can make such a profound difference on big issues,

Why don’t more of us get involved?

Our resignation
Harvard Prof. Lawrence Lessig said:

“We did a poll and found that 96% of Americans believe it important to reduce the influence of money in politics. But 91% don’t think it’s possible. That’s the politics of resignation.
“But the politics of resignation gives you a perfect strategy for winning...**how do we thaw that resignation** because once we do, then I think we have a real chance of winning.”

[Again, that’s the gift of the groups Civic Courage coaches, their deep commitment to thawing the resignation.]
Here’s a common view of most groups doing advocacy work, groups that are not really up for thawing the resignation:

“We can’t let our volunteers write letters to the editor or op-eds because they’ll get it wrong and misrepresent the organization....”
Citizens Climate Lobby

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<th>2010</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Letters/op-eds pub.</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>4,288</td>
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<td>Number of groups</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>397</td>
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<td>Congress/staff mtgs.</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>1,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. attendance</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,300</td>
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CCL volunteers enrolled 45 Republicans and 45 Democrats in joining the House Climate Solutions Caucus
How does it work? If volunteers raise their hand at a launch meeting and say “I’m in!” In what? What have the volunteers and the organization promised to each other? How powerful is the structure of support?

One component: A monthly conference call with guest speaker, Q&A, sharing grassroots victories, training, monthly Action Sheet.
How else does it work?
The Champion Scale

It’s critical to move a member of Congress up the Champion Scale from opposed to neutral to supporter to advocate to leader to champion.
Organizations Committed to Dissolving the Powerlessness

___Ending poverty (RESULTS)
___Climate change solutions (CCL)
___Repealing the AUMF (FCNL)
___Money out of politics (Am. Promise)

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___Join Civic Courage mailing list
___Read Reclaiming Our Democracy
One aspect of the Civic Courage process is a spiritual approach to politics—a politics of love.

One Citizens’ Climate Lobby volunteer called her meetings with 20 Congressional offices “sacred and profound.”

Read from *Reclaiming Our Democracy*
E & E News (September 2017): Tom Moyer, a CCL volunteer who worked with former Rep. Mia Love (R-UT) said it’s impossible to convince anyone of anything if you fundamentally don’t like them. “If you walk in thinking they’re an idiot and evil, you’re done from the start, it doesn’t matter how logical your position is,” he said. “You have to put yourself in a place where you can find something to respect [in them].”
One way I’ve grown in the past year in my FCNL Advocacy Team work is:

1) “My heart is more tender, loving, and hopeful than it has been in many years, not just the last.”
Again, one aspect of the Civic Courage process is a spiritual approach to politics—a politics of love.
You might have a low opinion of your Member of Congress, but you have to decide whether your goal is to be right about that or to cause a transformation. It’s really up to you, but we will never get climate change reversed, poverty eliminated, Citizens United overturned, or nuclear war prevented with Democrats only or Republicans only—it has to be a bipartisan, trans-partisan effort.
You can make a profound difference on big issues with your voice as a citizen.

You probably haven’t because of your sense of powerlessness and resignation about politics, especially federal politics.

If you find an organization committed to dissolving the powerlessness you can make that profound difference.
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Your comfort zone  Where the magic happens
“This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, the being a force of nature, instead of a selfish, feverish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me, it is a sort of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

Man and Superman, George Bernard Shaw
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Reclaiming Our Democracy

Healing the break between people and government

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Founder of RESULTS

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Again and again in history some people wake up. They have no ground in the crowd and move to broader deeper laws. They carry strange customs with them and demand room for bold and audacious action. The future speaks ruthlessly through them. They change the world.

Rainer Maria Rilke
Visionaries are possessed creatures, men and women in the thrall of belief so powerful that they ignore all else—even reason—to ensure that reality catches up with their dreams. But always behind the action is an idea, a passionate sense of what is eternal in human nature and also what is coming but as yet unseen, over the horizon.

Time magazine
Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.

Apple Computer ad
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