

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

November, 2004

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 23, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Looking Ahead

This month's meeting will reflect on the election, but our emphasis is on the future with our local races coming up in March. We are inviting our Democratic candidates for a discussion of their races.

The Outcome

Good News and Bad News

BY STEVE ZUCKER

We all know the bad news: Bush won the presidency nationally with 286 electoral votes to Kerry's 252. He also took 51.3% of the popular vote, to Kerry's 48.3%. Nader received only a paltry 0.3%, partly due to his not making it on the ballot in some states including California. If it's any consolation, Kerry won 54.4% of the California vote and 62.8% of the Los Angeles County vote.

The good news begins with the electoral contests in California and especially in our area. The detailed results are shown in the following tables. In summary, the Democrats kicked butt in all but one race, and that one, Rohrabacher(R) vs. Brandt(D) wasn't
(Continued on page 3)

America, Sweet America

Any Democrat who feels cheerful this season is living in an alternate reality. No, the mood of the day is concern if not outright gloom—but still, the Democratic Club lives on. Not only do we have each other, but our Party is bigger and stronger than ever. It's just that the other Party is also big and strong, and they got out even more votes than we did in an unprecedented GOTV effort.

Well, better pundits than I are telling this story, so I'm here to thank my faithful newsletter contributors for their work this extraordinary past year. I start with our splendid president Bobbi, who not only energized droves of local Democrats as never before, but wrote her elegant column for *BCDC* every month no matter how busy she was. Monroe's witty corner continues to liven things up and attract readers. Marge Winston still handles the mailing even though it quadrupled for awhile—and of course, Steve does whatever is needed, from managing the email side to proofreading and writing copy.

Please remember that we don't publish a newsletter in December. But we're partying just the same; there's some information about our holiday get-together in these pages and you'll receive more next month.

Friends, don't let the false patriotism of the far right get you down. Indeed, America lost a great, great man this year—Ray Charles! Next time you want to feel good about our country, just go listen to his version of "America the Beautiful." I guarantee it will lift your spirits high.

Happy holidays to all of you, and to Democrats everywhere.

Moira Zucker

Save the Date

Our annual Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 12. We'll have our traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Details to follow.



The Face of Concern—At the Manhattan Beach Marriott, Kerry supporters grew anxious as the numbers came in on CNN. There was no way to party as initially optimistic exit polls turned against the Democratic candidate.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President's Pen

Thanksgiving is nearly upon us. That great holiday when we put aside our troubles and woes and reflect on all we have. For each of us living here in the South Bay, on this glorious coast of The Golden State, we are truly blessed.

Our daily vistas are the beautiful Pacific, the rugged Santa Monica Mountains, and the glow of the setting sun. If this paradise on its own were not enough, we are doubly blessed to have our families and friends, those kindred spirits who share our lives and times. Over this past year, our Beach Cities family has multiplied and grown. We have added hundreds of new faces, all working side by side to build a better America. We have laughed and cried and become a united force for positive action in our community and our country. All our efforts, the blood, sweat and tears of the campaign, are not in vain, they are the building blocks of a brighter tomorrow. We will continue to work and expand on our successes locally and raise our voices in support of justice and liberty. For now, as we begin this Holiday Season and usher out the old, we give thanks for all the wonderful people who have shared our collective story, a wealth beyond measure. We look to the future of our beloved Nation, and vow to continue to work, that she might be a more perfect Union.

There are so many people who have been instrumental in making this club and the 2004 election cycle successful. Kudos and heartfelt thanks to all:

Our first rate and fabulous newsletter editor: Moira Zucker, mailing: Marge Winston, columnist: Monroe Weinstock.

Our web site wizard and our data

(Continued on page 4)



October Recap

One More Month

In this our last meeting before the election, not the rainstorm nor the Red Sox kept members at home. Our usual big crowd showed up to share last-minute updates and announcements prior to the election.

Children's Authors for Kerry

Our main speaker was April Halprin Wayland, a politically active author of children's books. She believes the reason there are so many activists in politics now is that the children of the baby boomers



have grown up, freeing their parents to become more than "checkbook liberals." She has organized a group called Authors and Illustrators for Children (www.AiforC.org) whose ad reads, "We create children's books because we care about children. That's why we're voting for John Kerry."

The ad is running in education magazines and on teacher-oriented websites throughout October. Wayland said her goal was to receive an email from just one person telling her that he or she switched from Bush to Kerry because of her work. (She reached her goal.)

She has been interviewed on cable radio programs and is listed on Michael Moore's website. Her group now includes 375 authors including award-winning Maurice Sendak and Judy Blume.

Ms. Wayland is also a poet, a musician, an organizer, and a teacher. She currently teaches in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program.

News & Announcements

Shirlee Browne reported that our treasury is up over \$5,000 and we have already paid for a large ad that is to appear in the Beach Reporter and the Easy Reader. Bob Barnwell said the current issue of Easy Reader also has a good writeup on Mike Gordon's campaign and the smear tactics being used by his opponent, Greg Hill. Mike has been endorsed by the Daily Breeze.

We heard from Victoria Page, fiancée of Kurt Schmalz, that the Redondo Beach councilman is running for mayor in the March 8 election. She invited club members to the campaign kickoff on October 30.

Vice-president Lee Fink announced his race for Redondo Beach City Council in the same election. Lee grew up in Orange County and went to law school in New York, but he says BCDC feels like his family.



Lee Fink announces his Redondo Beach City Council race

Bill Briggs from Mike Gordon's campaign told us that opponent Greg Hill is so desperate that 95% of his mailers are devoted to attacking Mike. The effect on Mike's campaign is not known, but he has been running well ahead throughout the race. As always, we can't afford to take this contest for

granted. Gordon's team is planning a victory party at the Doubletree Hotel.

Stephanie Zarro urged members to join Jane Harman's beach bike ride on October 30. Even if it rains, the pre-election celebration will take place at 3PM at Guy Dill's Studio, 1321 Innes Place, Venice.

Our longtime member Bob Brigham announced that a cartoonist friend had produced several political drawings, which were free to all takers.

Jim Aldinger gave an update on GOTV efforts. The past weekend, 350 people went to Nevada and 150 to Arizona. On the upcoming weekend, they are seeking volunteers for Nevada and Arizona. It costs only \$35 to take the bus and many homes are available to house volunteers free of charge.

Aldinger said there are now twenty phone lines operating seven days a week at his house. This evening the calls were focusing on African American voters in Florida.

He announced a training session for poll watchers. Volunteers will meet at regional locations on election day, check rosters to see who voted, and contact people who have not.

Dilip Adarkar spoke about his recent trip to England and India, his second since the Iraq invasion. He said the British are showing less goodwill to Americans because of President Bush.



Another scene from the Election Night party in Manhattan Beach

(Elections, continued from page 1) in our Beach Cities.

U.S. Senate State LA County

Boxer (D)	58.7	66.5
Jones (R)	38.0	28.9

36th Congressional District

Harman (D)	62.0
Whitehead (R)	33.6

46th Congressional District

Brandt (D)	32.8
Rohrabacher (R)	61.8

27th State Senate District

Lowenthal (D)	63.0
Castellanos (R)	37.0

53rd Assembly District

Gordon (D)	50.4
Hill (R)	42.5

54th Assembly District

Karnette (D)	52.9
Kuykendall (R)	44.5

The statewide propositions present a mixed bag. On the positive side, most Democrats are probably happy with the outcome on propositions 1A, 59, 60, 62, 68, 70, and 71 and quite disappointed about 64, 66, 69, and 72.

Proposiiton	Yes	No	
1A	Govt Revenues	83.6	16.4
59	Public Records	83.3	16.7
60	Party Rights	67.5	32.5
60A	Surplus Property	73.1	26.9
61	Hospital Grants	58.0	42.0
62	Open Primary	46.0	54.0
63	Mental Health	53.4	46.6
64	Business Laws	59.0	41.0
65	Local Govt Funds	37.4	62.6
66	3 Strikes Limits	46.8	53.2
67	Medical Funds	28.0	72.0
68	Gambling	16.1	83.9
69	DNA Samples	61.9	38.1
70	Tribal Gaming	23.7	76.3
71	Stem Cell	59.0	41.0
72	Health Coverage	48.9	51.1



Monroe's Corner

In the five years that I have been writing this column, I've enjoyed it because it forces me to focus

more carefully on events & reactions. Unlike the famous A.J. Liebling who wrote that the press is free to one who owns one, I have been able to spew my venom & pontificate to my heart's delight. So far, there is one subject I have avoided in print, because I have a decidedly slanted view. I mean to comment on Israel/Palestine.

You will not get a neutral non-partisan opinion from this old Jew. Being a Jew is not something taken lightly, but I treat the concept with great dignity, respect & reverence. I've grown up with a strong moral focus & sense of justice. I know the history of my people; we invented the one benevolent & demanding GOD; we suffered near annihilation by an Egyptian Pharaoh; we survived the Spanish Inquisition; we kept our identity through 2500 years of Diaspora; we outlived the Greek & Roman Empires; we lived through the Russian pogroms under the Tsars; we survived the massive Hitler Holocaust; we miraculously had the UN mandate a state of Israel in 1948; and after 56 years we've still managed to fight off the onslaught of Islam.

So today, Israel has a nuclear threat from Iran; attacks from Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, & the PLO; constant incursions, raids, hostage beheadings, boycotts, economic strangulation, and, worst of all, suicide bombings. Both the Israelis & Palestinians lay claim to the same piece of dry & desolate land near the Red & the Dead Seas. Israelis' claim is based on the word of GOD (the Bible). Palestinians' claim is based on the words of Muhammad in the Koran. The claims are

(Continued on page 4)



Beach Cities Democratic Club

P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

President

Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890

Vice-President

Lee Fink—310-370-3020

Treasurer

Shirlee Browne—310-798-0908

Secretary/Publicity

Kathleen Paralusz—310-621-3734

Newsletter

Moira Zucker—310-546-7562

Mailing

Marge Winston—310-372-8026

Web Manager

James McGreevy—310-320-1638

Membership

Barbara Blum—310-540-6346

(President, continued from page 2)

manager: Jim McGreevy and Steve Zucker.

Our wonderful officers: Vice President: Lee Fink, Treasurer: Shirlee Browne, Secretary: Kathleen Paralusz, Membership: Barbara Blum. Hospitality: Peggy Carter.

And, all the dedicated and tireless campaign workers, city captains, precinct captains and walkers, tablers, phonebankers, fundraisers, volunteer trainers, the Swing State team, and countless others. Thank you, Edna Murphy, George Roesse, Ray Waters, Dency Nelson, Anne Faass, Shirlee Browne, Lori Geittmann, Lee Fink, Mustapha Sesay, Jerome Haig, Tony Hale, Ranoo and Sander Shipper, George Tucker, Doug Weeldryer, Angela Sumser, Bob Dye, Tina McKinnor, Marija Kosanovich, Jane Affonso, Jeanne Eidt, Phuong Nguyen, Kevin Schaaf, Carmen Gonzalez, Irma Cohen, Arlette Chew, Scott Haas, Al Lay, Angela Brau, Mark Drabkin, Paul Freeman, Jim Kennedy, Kathleen Paralusz, Bea Roza, Julie Shankle, Paul Wicker, Jimmy Page, Todd Lowen-

stein, Mary Scott Bellgraph, Tammy Minion, John and Shizue McNay. And, especially the Big Three, who worked day and night, 24/7, keeping the bee hive buzzing: Ani Haigazian, Larry Fox, and Jim Aldinger, who gave of themselves and Jim who gave us his home, in the quest of our noble cause.

I am so proud to be part of this diverse and beautiful Democratic family. My thanks to one and all.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays.

Bobbi Buescher

(Monroe, continued from page 3)

without question, irreconcilable.

The world faces a situation that cannot be resolved by the UN or any other authority. The Palestinian Authority under Arafat does not control its own people. The Israelis have created a singular miracle: Democracy in the Middle East. It could work much better without the need for constant military defensive tactics against an implacable enemy. Israel has been severely criticized by Europe for build-

ing a defensive wall between themselves & the Palestinians. The critics are the same folks who stood by & many helped walk Jews through the gas chambers during the Holocaust. They claim the wall restricts the freedom of the Palestinians & absorbs some of their territory.

Omar Kayyam wrote: "The Moving Finger writes & having writ moves on..." In the Middle East the moving finger is dipped in blood & oil & hatred & killing & slaughter! For many years I hoped for some kind of solution, even an unfair one that could stop the bloodshed. Today, I see no silver lining in this cloud; there is no prayer of a possible agreement; there is no chance to "split the baby ala Solomon." I like to think of myself as an optimist, but the best I see is a never-ending, ongoing continuation of religious warfare, bloodshed, & violence. This is not a happy ending to a continuing disaster!

Next issue we can again discuss political matters & the newly elected officials, from the President on down.

Monroe Weinstock
