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

May, 2006

Next Meeting

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

Our speaker will be Jim Brandt, Fighting Democrat and candidate for the House of Representatives, 46th Congressional District against Dana Rohrabacher.

Mr. Brandt is an educator and software engineer, and the founder and CEO of Pyramid Software. He has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from USC and was a captain and pilot in the US Marine Corps. He is regional vice chair of the LA County Democratic Party.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sign up for booth duty at the Hermosa Beach Memorial Day Fiesta! May 27, 28 & 29 10 AM – 6 PM Contact Barbara Blum or Peggy Carter if you can help.

Save the date! Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair October 7 & 8 BCDC needs volunteers both days.

Announcements

We will hold Club elections in June. The nominating committee will present its proposed slate in May. If you would like to run for a club position or nominate someone, be sure to come to the May meeting.

Dues are payable for the new 06-07 year on July 1. According to the bylaws, members who pay in March are paid-up for the upcoming year.

Candidates' Forum

Democrats came from all over the south bay to hear candidates in a well-organized forum held at the UFCW hall in Harbor City on April 22. The program was officiated in turn by Don Dear, Lee Fink, and Jim Brandt.

Some highlights:

Governor:

Steve Westly—Favors the Massachusetts health care program mandating employers coverage, and going after tax cheats instead of raising taxes.

Phil Angelides—Would roll back the \$17 Billion tax break for the wealthiest Californians, and supports drivers' licenses for undocumented workers.

Controller:

John Chiang—Supports reproductive choice and would fight back against excessive corporate tax breaks and oil company profits.

Board of Equalization:

Jerome Horton—An "Old Party

Democrat' who opposed the Iraq war; wants to bring the troops home.

Judy Chu— Authored legislation to close tax loopholes, has a 100% environmental scorecard.

Lt. Governor:

Jackie Speier— Forced the governor to return steroid money. An activist on the issue of gay marriage.

John Garamendi—Stood up

Georgia, who spoke on Sunday. Photo courtesy of Diane Strack.

to the insurance companies and forced payment to victims of the Holocaust. He supports gay marriage, saying "separate but equal" is unequal.

Liz Figueroa—Worked on Healthy Families, and stood up on the Senate floor to defend marriage equality.

Attorney General:

Rocky Delgadillo—Prochoice. Believes Three Strikes is useful but needs reform. He has taken on gangs and gun-dealers and started anti-truancy program Operation Bright Future.

Jerry Brown—Also pro-choice, strong environmental record. Stood up against the Iraq invasion on Fox news. Supported impeachment of Richard Nixon two years early. On Three Strikes: tough on crime, but supports training, reentry, and rehabilitation.

Secretary of State:

Debra Bowen—Dedicated to Clean Money, and emphasized she wants government to spend time working for the people instead of raising money.



2006 State Party Convention Lori Geittmann, Mayor Jim Dear, Ray Waters, Diane Strack, Jim Aldinger, and Shirlee Browne at the California Democratic Party Convention in Sacramento April 28 – 30. Highlights included Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico as the honored guest at the Convention dinner on Saturday, and Senator Max Cleland, former US Senator from

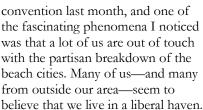
Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

Page 2 Beach Cities Democratic Club

From the President

Painting the Town Blue

The California Democratic Party held its annual



At the end of the column, you can see the voter registration in all of the Beach Cities as of April of this year. While we are fortunate to live in Democratic legislative districts, the reality is that the Beach Cities (and many of the surrounding cities in our legislative districts and up on the hill) have Republican registration advantages. What makes it even more challenging for us is that not only are we outnumbered, but as we all know, the other side tends to be higher propensity voters, particularly in our local elections.

The good news, however, is that we are making progress. There are more Democrats in all of the Beach Cities than there were in January 2004, and there either fewer registered Republicans, or in some cases, just a handful more. In Redondo Beach, there are only 144 more Republicans than Democrats, down from a Republican edge of more than 1,000 just two years ago. While this is good progress, I personally know that as few as 56 votes can make the difference in an election.

So let us set a goal—once we have elected Jeff Duclos in Hermosa Beach, let's make up that 144-voter difference and make Redondo Beach a Democratic City. I believe that we can register enough new Democrats in Redondo Beach between now and

November that we can make a difference in this election. And then we can serve notice on Hermosa and Manhattan that we are coming there next, and we're going to paint the town Blue.

City – Total Registered Voters – Registered Democrats – Registered Republicans

April 2006 El Segundo - 9,909 - 3,209 - 4,306 Hermosa Beach - 12,918 - 4,402 -4,817 Manhattan Beach - 22,968 - 8,132 -9,889

Redondo Beach - 38,274 - 14,085 - 14,229

January 2004 El Segundo - 9,279 - 2,991 - 4,239 Hermosa Beach - 12,036 - 4,074 -4,832 Manhattan Beach - 22,113 - 7,796 -10,015 Redondo Beach - 35,360 - 12,985 -14,028

For more information on Voter Registration Statistics, go to: http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/ elections_u.htm

Lee Fink



LA County Democratic Central Committee Candidates Ray Waters, Lori Geittmann, Denise Moehlman, and LJ Carusone. The club endorsed Bobbi Buescher, Lori, Denise, Ray, James Lau, John Frierson, and Janni Ekstrand as the seasoned members and encouraged Mr. Carusone to serve as an alternate.

April Recap

Local Candidates Speak

Our April meeting featured judicial candidates who had been prescreened by our committee of attorneys. All the speakers were registered Democrats.

First was Janis Barquist, running for seat #144 in the Superior Court. With over 25 years of legal experience, she started out as in-house counsel for a labor union. She has experience representing both union and management



Susan Lopez-Giss and Janis Barquist

and has worked in trade and civil rights litigation. Her endorsements include the LA County Democratic Party, Sheriff Lee Baca, and Fire Chief Bamattre. Susan Lopez-Giss, running for seat #95, was an assistant city

attorney in LA for 30 years. She's been a criminal prosecutor for fifteen years and was named one of California's Top 75 Women Litigators by the Daily Journal. She drafted a domestic violence prosecution manual and has worked to protect DWP ratepayers from fraud. She has been endorsed by DA Steve Cooley, former Attorney General John Van de Kamp, and former LA District Attorney Ira Reiner.

Lynn Olsen, running for seat #120, is challenging an incumbent Republican. She has worked at two law firms

Lynn Olsen

and specialized in product liability, workmen's compensation, and labor law. Her background includes years of public service including helping to raise \$106,000 for cancer research. She has been

endorsed by the LA County Democratic Central Committee.

Alan Friedenthal, running for seat

#8, has nine years' experience as a Superior Court bench officer and has experience in family, criminal, and intellectual property and bankruptcy law. He worked on George



Alan Friedenthal

McGovern's staff and served as a delegate to the 2000 Democratic National Convention. His many endorsements include Assemblymembers Paul Koretz and Lloyd Levine, Hon. John Chiang—Board of Equalization, and AFSCME Local 575, the Court Clerks' Union.

Next we heard from six of the eight County Democratic Central Committee candidates: LJ Carusone—a consultant who has worked in film and television and supported progressive candidates; John Frierson—a founding member of the New Frontier Democ-



John Frierson

rats and has worked for Councilman Nate Holden; Lori Geittmann—our past threeterm president, who chairs the state party Senior Caucus; James Lau—who has worked for 5 years in the state

legislature; Denise Moehlman—a

former DA candidate and a "let's-impeach-Bush Democrat"; and Ray Waters—who has attended County Committee as John Frierson's alternate. Not present were Bobbi Buescher—former



James Lau

three-term BCDC president, and Janni Ekstrand, longtime County Committee member.

Lee spoke in favor of Prop 81, the Public Library construction bond. By combining a 65% state match with 35% locally generated funds, Prop. 81 would result in nearly \$900 million being spent to renovate or build librar-

Monroe's Corner

My wife & I recently watched the DVD "Good Night & Good Luck." We lived through that



era. It was & still is a graphic reminder of the dangers to freedom & democracy. "Tail-gunner" Joe McCarthy, the junior senator from Wisconsin, was a deadly menace, not unlike our President Dubya. Both wrapped themselves in the flag!

But for today we have the Patriot Acts I & II which are enough to cause the words Democracy, Freedom, Justice, Logic...to lose all meaning. The Acts allow for surveillance of US citizens domestically; permit searches without due process of law; allow access to personal confidential matters; & define domestic terrorism so vaguely that lawful groups may easily be penalized.

As Al Jolson used to say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!" Bush & company are exploring a new approach to government secrecy regarding the leakage of classified info. Heretofore, the one who spilled the beans could & would be prosecuted. The new wrinkle on leaks is to go after the recipient. Since we are now in a perpetual war against terror, the law says, "...no person may

possess classified documents that were illegally provided to them." In 2004, the government classified over 15 Million documents "secret" or "top secret." Many are so classified in order to insure that bureaucratic superiors read them. During World War II the Bow & Arrow were labeled as secret & called "silent flashless weapons."

Last year NY Times reporter Judith Miller was jailed for 85 days for refusing to name her confidential source, until "Scooter" Libby cut her loose. The FBI today is attempting to search & recover classified papers from the estate of the late columnist Jack Anderson. Added to the confusion are 55,000 documents formerly available for research that have been withdrawn & re-classified as "secret." AIPAC, a pro-Israel lobby, is in Federal Court on charges of violating espionage laws by having secret Pentagon data. Prosecuting AIPAC allows the government to establish a new precedent, without attacking the press directly & openly. Just think what would have happened to Woodward & Bernstein & the "Deep Throat" details. Instead of being successful & wealthy, they would be serving life sentences! So let this be a lesson to all of us, Button up your lip or else!!!

Monroe Weinstock

ies. Lori Geittmann said that many children in North Redondo use this library (where the club meets) and it is not large enough to hold the books and computers. The club moved to endorse Prop 81.

We also moved to endorse Prop 82, a proposal to give all four-year-olds access to a quality preschool education.

Jim Aldinger reported that the new police and fire facilities in Manhattan Beach will be open on July 1. Regarding the undergrounding dispute, the city prevailed over those homeowners who sued over its assessment formula. Ira Stein from Jane Harman's office reported that Jane spoke on Earth Day about energy independence and is working on safe ports legislation. She has been vocal in criticizing Bush for his double standard on leaks. She said he selectively declassified certain information in secret and empowered people in his White House to leak it to discredit his opponents.

It was reported that the Democratic Action Center open house enjoyed a large turnout.

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Lee Fink—310-370-3020
Vice-President
Treasurer
Gerrelany
Ani Haigazian—310-545-6292
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
Moira Zucker—310-546-7562
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P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Beach Cities

Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form

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Please Print			N N
Name $_$ \square I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or t	hose intending to regist	er, may join the club.	
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone (Home) (Other)			
Email			
□ Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves mo	ney. Check this box if	you would like to receiv	ve yours by e-mai
I volunteer to:			
\Box Telephone \Box Help with Mailing \Box Hospitality \Box Wri	ite for Newsletter		
\square Register Voters \square Programs \square Legislative \square Members	hip □Other		

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

Please make check payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.