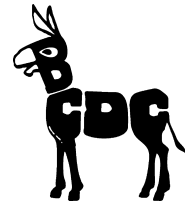


Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

August, 2006

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 22, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Organizing for the Fall Elections

Our speaker wasn't confirmed at press time, but there will be lots of strategizing and volunteer opportunities at the meeting as well as updates from our Democratic leadership.

Club Business

BCDC will have a booth at:
Fiesta Hermosa—September 2, 3, 4
Manhattan Beach Old Hometown
Fair—October 7 & 8
Contact Diane Strack if you can work a shift.

We are still seeking a fund raising chair and callers for our phone tree.

The Democratic Action Center has a great new website. Go to:
democraticactioncenter.com and check out local events and opportunities.

On July 27, Assemblyman Ted Lieu cosigned SB 840, the universal health care bill for all Californians. Lieu, already a supporter of Senate Bill 840, increased his commitment by becoming a cosigner. SB 840 provides affordable health for all Californians by establishing one universal health insurance plan paid for by one public fund. This is expected to save the lives of thousands of Californians and billions of dollars. To find out more about SB 840 please visit www.onecarenow.org.

Town Hall Meetings

Congresswoman Jane Harman will be hosting a New Direction town hall meeting on Wednesday, August 16th from 6:15 PM to 8:00 PM at the Redondo Beach Main Library.

Please join Congresswoman Harman to talk about the six points in the New Direction for America and how they affect each one of us. RVSP ahead of time because space is limited. Visit <http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/pdf/NewDirection.pdf> for more information.

A New Direction for America

1. *Make Health Care More Affordable:* Fix the prescription drug program by putting people ahead of drug companies and HMOs, eliminating wasteful subsidies, negotiating lower drug prices and ensuring the program works for all seniors; invest in stem cell and other medical research.
2. *Lower Gas Prices and Achieve Energy Independence:* Crack down on price gouging; eliminate billions in subsidies for oil and gas companies and use the savings to provide consumer relief and develop American alternatives, including biofuels; promote energy efficient technology.
3. *Help Working Families:* Raise the minimum wage; repeal tax giveaways that encourage companies to move jobs overseas.
4. *Cut College Costs:* Make college tuition deductible from taxes; expand Pell grants and slash student loan costs.
5. *Ensure Dignified Retirement:* Prevent the privatization

of Social Security; expand savings incentives; and ensure pension fairness.

6. *Require Fiscal Responsibility:* Restore the budget discipline of the 1990s that helped eliminate deficits and spur record economic growth.

Congresswoman Harman's office:
2321 E. Rosecrans, Suite 3270
El Segundo, CA 90245
310.643.3636 phone
310.643.6445 fax



Harman Representative Jim Kennedy at the July meeting with Lee Fink and Dency Nelson.



53rd AD Democratic Woman and Man of the Year, Denise Moehlman and Ray Waters, were honored at the annual FDR dinner on June 25 at the Hollywood Palladium. Photo courtesy of Ray Waters.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

Losing Touch

There is a tragic attempt by the extreme elements of a national political party to enforce ideological purity within its ranks. Intolerant of moderates, the extremists are propping up a little-known local official of a town of less than 100,000 people to run against a respected moderate senator, in the hope of flexing their political muscle against an incumbent who has, from time to time, broken ranks with their party. And if the polls are any indication, they are about to succeed.

That's right—right wing Republican Stephen Laffey, endorsed by the reactionary Club for Growth, has a slight lead in his Primary over incumbent Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island. And the chances are, you have probably not read about it in the newspapers.

You probably have also not read about Rep. Joe Schwarz, a moderate Republican who lost his Michigan congressional primary to conservative Tim Walberg 55% to 45% on the very same day that Ned Lamont won in Connecticut. Despite the cries from the corporate media and the DC-based consultant class, Ned Lamont's win is not the harbinger of the end of the Democratic Party—it is merely the opening act in a Democratic wave that's coming in November. The reality of the situation is that Ned Lamont's position is in line with the values of mainstream Americans on universal healthcare, energy independence, the minimum wage, and in line with the 60% of the American public who oppose the Iraq War (according to an August 9 CNN Poll).

It is the Republican party is out of step with these values, and after



barely missing taking out moderate Sen. Arlen Specter in 2004, has started an ideological purge with candidates like Laffey and Walberg. Of course, this is hardly new—moderates like Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins are regularly marginalized and Jim Jeffords was driven out of their party. Even a staunch conservative like John McCain was ostracized for challenging their anointed leader in the 2000 primaries, and has had to spend the last years pandering to the intolerants like Jerry Falwell and Pat Roberts (or what McCain himself admitted on the Daily Show was “going into crazy base world.”)

I was disappointed that Joe Lieberman lost the primary, because he has been a leader and an important symbol, particularly to Jewish Americans. But my biggest disappointment is in Lieberman himself, who just never got that he was wrong on the issue, and allowed himself to be used as a prop by the Bush's false claims of bipartisanship. Lieberman lost touch with the voters in Connecticut, and with the American public. Republicans might like to spin it another way, but the message is clear—2006 is a year of change, and the American public is not sticking with the failed policies of the last 6 years.

Lee Fink

July Recap

Health Care and Environmental Stewardship

Democrats braved the July heat wave to come and hear our two speakers, Sheila Hoff on Universal Health Care and Assemblyman Ted Lieu with a legislative update.

Hoff, who has been working on health care for ten years, said that a state-based single payer program is now part of the Democratic platform. Sheila Kuehl's SB 840, titled “The California Health Insurance Reliability Act,” passed in the State Senate last year and is now in the assembly. It will



be voted on next month. The US is the only industrialized country that has employer-based health care, leaving millions of Americans without insurance or underinsured. Our system is collapsing under skyrocketing costs including coverage for the uninsured.

Under SB840, people choose their own doctor and receive a full range of services, many not covered by private insurance or Medicare. Coverage is for life, and there are no co-payments, deductibles, or disqualifying conditions. According to a Lewin Group economic impact study in April 2004, families and employers could save \$2,000 to \$3,000 per person per year and administrative costs could go down by as much as \$20 billion. SB840 also calls for negotiated prescription costs, saving an additional \$5 billion.

Single-payer systems such as Medicare, the Veterans Administration, and Kaiser, save money: Medicare's administrative costs are under 5%.

The program would cost workers less than they currently pay for health premiums and would be covered by a progressive payroll tax.



Hoff is affiliated with OneCareNow (onecarenow.org), California's 365-city campaign for universal health care insurance. The club passed a motion to endorse their petition.

Next we heard from Assemblyman Ted Lieu, who handed out a brochure listing toll-free numbers for government services and

Top: Sheila Hoff; above, Assemblyman Ted Lieu; right, Todd Loewenstein, Rusty Hicks, and Carl Clark.

invited members to call his office with ideas and suggestions.

He reported that the budget was passed on schedule for the first time in six years as a result of California's revenue surplus. We were able to fully fund education and transportation, and paid down \$3 billion in debt. An additional \$500,000 grant went to our schools.

Lieu had seen Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" and reported that the Senate passed the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) last month. The bill is a statewide effort to cap greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of California's economy and would reduce emissions by 25% by the year 2020.

Lieu said Toyota is an example of an environmentally-friendly company. Their "green" complex in California has one of the largest commercial solar panel systems in the country and conserves more than 11 million gallons of drinking water annually. Toyota created the world's first mass-produced gas/electric hybrid car.

Lieu thanked Tony Hale for his work on the Clean Money campaign, which he has endorsed.

Two Redondo Beach school board members, Carl Clark and Tod Loewenstein, spoke next. Loewenstein said major renovations were completed at the elementary school and there may be a bond issue in March to upgrade the 100-year-old buildings at Redondo High School.



Jim Kennedy from Jane Harman's office spoke

next and said that Jane voted against the Pledge of Allegiance Protection Act, which would limit the judiciary's right to review the "under God" language. She also worked to defeat the ban on gay marriage and the presi-

Monroe's Corner

This column gets to a place that has been festering in my gut for 58 years. In 1948 the United Nations voted to acknowledge the debt the world owed the Jewish People, not for their accomplishments, but for their suffering through the European Hitler Holocaust. During the Hitler years in Germany, the world chose to pretend, ignore, minimize, or just do nothing about this horror! In May 1948 the UN created the State of Israel as a Jewish homeland for this eternally wandering Jew. What the world did not consider was the Palestinians & Middle Eastern Moslems who would not accept an "infidel" people in their midst.

Today the Moslem world extends from Jakarta, Indonesia to North Africa. Moslems have two major sects that are at serious odds with one another & has led to major acts of bloodshed & violence. But all Moslems are banded together in their hatred for the Jew, who must be destroyed, eradicated, eliminated, vilified, & suicide bombed into oblivion! In 2003 alone, 563 Israelis were killed, & in 2004 it was 118 killed. In 2005 the figure is higher & 2006 looks like it will be a banner year!

Without going into chapter & verse of the killings, suicides bombings, & peacekeeping attempts, there is still one basic flaw in the negotiations. In the Hebrew religion it is said that to save one life is the equivalent of saving an entire nation. To the Moslems, it is



most glorious to die a Martyr's death in a Holy War. And so the tactics have been the use of kidnapping. They will kidnap one or more Israeli/Jewish prisoners & use him or her for trade. The trades sometimes come to a ratio of one to 300, or 400, or 500, or more. So the leader of Hezbollah decided the time was ripe for another trade, based on the feeling that he has the backing of Iran & Syria & the rest of the Moslem world. Hezbollah has received massive infusions of arms, ammunition, and best of all, rockets (the longer the range the better).

But now Hezbollah must play the system like a poker hand, & know when to hold 'em & when to fold 'em. This time Israel said, sorry no dice & no trade! Iran & Syria did not expect the stiff reaction they got from Israel, & got a refusal to swap people like trading cards. And with no place to hide & nothing to trade, Hezbollah can only continue to kill needlessly or silently slink away into the bowels of the earth! So, I ask, What is the world waiting for? Where is the world action to match its moral outrage? Does the world expect this to lead to World War III or has it already begun?

Monroe Weinstock

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last regular column from Monroe, although we're hoping he will continue to contribute his opinions occasionally in the future. Many of our readers have said they read his column before anything else. What can we say but thank you, Monroe, for your years of engaging and witty commentary, and for drawing in so many readers.

dential veto on stem cell research.

Harman is pushing through legislation to strengthen FISA. She wants to hear from constituents on immigration issues and she advocates stronger port security, availability of green cards, and earned citizenship.

Upcoming events include a Veterans' Town Hall meeting and a forum to discuss the Democrats' 6-point vision (see page 1). Check Harman's website for location information and sign up for her online newsletter, or call her office at 310-643-3636.

President Lee Fink—310-370-3020
 Vice-President Ray Waters—310-374-4744
 Treasurer Edna Murphy—310-545-6292
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P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club Membership Form



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Other) _____

Email _____

Distribution of the club newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check this box if you would like to receive yours by e-mail.

I volunteer to:

Telephone Help with Mailing Hospitality Write for Newsletter

Register Voters Programs Legislative Membership 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.