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

March, 2007

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30PM David K. Hayward Center 2000 Artesia Boulevard Redondo Beach

With Al Gore's win at the Oscars last month, BCDC will be celebrating the importance of environmentalism to our party, our communities, and our world. Paul Scott, an officer of PluglnAmerica, will be speaking about PluglnHybrid Vehicles. Members are encouraged to watch "Who Killed the Electric Car?" which Paul will be speaking about.

We will also have a speaker about the Cool Cities Initiative.

Protest Homelessness

Poverty Matters is supporting a Tent City event produced by LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness in Los Angeles.

Thursday April 12, 2007 8 AM—4PM

Los Angeles City Hall—South Side Contact Executive Director Susie Shannon at povertymatters@yahoo. com or susie@panix.com, or call 323-939-5475. Please see page 4 for more details about the event.



Al Gore poses with Dency Nelson at the Academy Awards ceremony.

South Bay Energy Fair

The Environmental Priorities Network is organizing its second annual Energy Fair to promote public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change, and to inform residents how to conserve energy while they save money.

May 5, 2007
Pacific Unitarian Church
5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV
Registration: 8:30AM
Program: 9:00AM

A \$5.00 donation is appreciated, but no one will be turned away.

For more information about the Energy Fair, contact Lillian Light at 310-545-1384, lklight@verizon.net or David Dutra at 310-530-0846, dutra_david@hotmail.com, or visit the EPN website: www.southbay energyfair.com. See inside for details.

New Super Club Kickoff

BOBBI BUESCHER

Our newly formed 53rd Assembly District Democratic Congress will convene its first general meeting:

Thursday, March 22, at 7 PM Democratic Action Center 2221 Rosecrans, Ste 229, El Segundo

Everyone is welcome to join this new "Super Club" that is replacing the old 53rd AD. The meeting will focus on introducing this new organization, which we hope will be a strong support system for all our local Democratic clubs. We'll organize committees and start preparing for the 2008 elections. We need you and your great ideas to make this work for our beautiful district and the beautiful people who live here.

Group Seeks AES Site Park

Our February speaker was Bill Brand, president of the South Bay Parkland Conservancy, an organization dedicated to preserving and restoring public use of coastal land resources (www.southbayparks.org). Brand spoke about the group's current project to restore open space at the 52-acre AES power plant property near King Harbor.

Two state bonds were approved last month for cleaning up our oceans, rivers, lakes and streams, and adding and improving parkland. Proposition 84 provides \$5.4 billion for clean water, parks and coastal protection. Proposition 1C allocates another \$400 million for urban area parks. The Conservancy's proposal to convert the AES site to parkland qualifies for these funds. In addition, decommissioning the power plant could yield millions of dollars in recycled parts and materials.

The Beach Cities have the highest population density on the California coast. Redondo Beach has only 2.2 acres of park space per 1,000 residents, far below the national average of 16.2 acres. Santa Barbara has 16, Los Angeles 8.2, and New York 4.6.

The AES project—called Heart (Continued on page 4)



Senator Jenny Oropeza names Teresa Bird Woman of the Year at a ceremony in Sacramento.

Page 2 Beach Cities Democratic Club

From the President

Our Meeting with Jane Harman



Early this month, about 20 club presidents and vice presidents from the 36th Congressional District had a long meeting with Rep. Jane Harman to discuss the Iraq War, and Congress's efforts to get us out. I was joined by our Vice President Ray Waters and several other BCDC members who are officers of other Democratic Clubs, as well as other club leaders.

The first thing that was noticeable is the efforts that Rep. Harman is making to help get us out of Iraq. Although she voted for the authorization in 2002, she twice said that she had been mistaken to vote for the war. She mentioned that her husband "lords it over" her that he was right to be opposed to the war from the outset, and she was wrong.

A lot of Democrats voted for the authorization in 2002. Most of us were against it, but I understood why they did it, even while I disagreed. But the real test of character and judgment in politics is not always getting it right in the first place—but admitting you were wrong, and working to fix it. Rep. Harman gets it. Unfortunately, we have had a president for six years who has not been able to do that, and the country has suffered because of it.

The second thing that was interesting about the meeting is the efforts the Democrats in Congress are making, even despite the difficulties they face. By now, you have probably read about the appropriations measure

that Rep. Harman told us about, which requires the Iraqi government to reach certain milestones and the President to certify readiness. It is not the most aggressive legislation, but even that is difficult with such a slim Democratic majority—15 seats in the House, and a margin of Joe Lieberman in the Senate.

Rep. Harman's hope was clearly to get legislation passed that would get us out of Iraq, but between a foolishly united Republican caucus dedicated to blindly following Bush, and a president unwilling to admit his mistakes for the good of the country, we have a long way to go. We will need to keep pushing on the issue until we get enough Republican members of Congress to realize that they are on the wrong side of the issue, or we elect a Democratic President.

The last thing of note was that, just as in Washington, the Iraq War overshadowed all of the other issues that we talked about. Rightly so, in many ways. But as Democrats, we still must remember that there are 47 Million Americans without health insurance; that working families are living on a minimum wage that has not risen in 10 vears; that tuition at the UCs and the State Universities were just increased by 7%, making it more difficult for kids to go to college; that oil prices are still rising; that classrooms are still overcrowded; and the federal surplus that existed just 6 years ago has been replaced with massive deficits; and that we are Democrats because we want to fix all of these things too. This month, our meeting is going to focus on just one of those issues—the environment and the global climate crisis—but we have to keep working on all of these, even as we try to bring our troops home from Iraq.

Lee Fink

Websites related to articles in this issue: LA Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness—lacehh.org; Environmental Priorities Energy Fair—www.southbay energyfair.com; Democratic Action Center—www.democraticaction center.com.

February Recap

Lee gave a recap of the board meeting held at the DAC on February 7. The Board wants to form a phone tree to boost attendance and get members to renew. We're seeking volunteers willing to make monthly phone calls.

Lee said that the Mira Costa Young Democratic Club endorsed David Lesser for Manhattan Beach City Council. BCDC refrained from endorsing in the city's nonpartisan elections. But this limited our ability to help Bob Bohner, who has worked in many Democratic campaigns. A motion was passed to spend \$700 on a postcard supporting Bob.

Ray Waters reported from the County Committee that resolutions were passed on troop withdrawal from Iraq, disability access at Democratic facilities, stem cell research, and the impeachment of Cheney and Bush.

Jim Kennedy gave an update from Harman's office: Jane is pushing for a response to Al Gore's movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. He also reported that the Murtha Appropriations Bill is in the process of being drafted to curb President Bush's "surge" in Iraq. The bill will tie any additional money to troop readiness.

Teresa Bird reported from Jenny Oropeza's office that the senator is working to extend the Green Line to the LA Airport.

Bobbi Buescher reported on the new 53rd AD Super Club, which replaces the disbanded AD committees. New bylaws were written and twelve delegates were chosen in January from areas throughout the district.

The officers are: Bobbi Buescher—president, Mark Salzburg—vice-president, Jackie Decker—secretary, and Shirlee Browne—treasurer. All four will attend the Democratic Party Convention April 27-29. Bobbi encourages members wishing to attend the convention to volunteer.

South Bay Energy Fair

By LILLIAN LIGHT

Once the decision has been made to reduce the most devastating consequences of climate change, reducing energy use is the fastest and most costeffective way to control global warming pollution. The scientific community has concluded that burning fossil fuels to power our cars, homes, and electrical generating plants is causing an inexorable rise in the world's temperature. This warming of the planet by heat-trapping emissions poses a serious threat to our health, safety, and environment.

At the second annual Environmental Priorities Network Energy Fair, Jan Kidwell, an expert on global warming and energy issues, will speak about why saving energy must be every consumer's highest priority if we are to protect our world from the dire effects of greenhouse gas pollution. The panel discussion that follows will feature the following speakers:

Brad Bartz, who has been a solar installer since 2000, will discuss solar panel installations and the good rebates, tax writeoffs, and discounts that are now available.

Marilyn Lyon, director of the South Bay Energy Savings Center, will cover easy ways of saving energy from appliances to light bulbs. You will be able to pick up a complementary compact fluorescent bulb at her booth.

Dency Nelson, whose ecological home was a highlight of last year's Solar Homes Tour, will discuss Hybrid and Electric vehicles, as well as energy saving alternative fuels.

Workshops on some of these issues are also being planned.

Suppliers of technology-promoting ecology will display their wares and explain how to save energy and protect our planet. Vendors include architects, builders of electric cars, electric motor-bikes, biodiesel, and vegetable oil vehicles as well as solar panel installers.

Information about the advantages of public transportation will be available, and cargo and commuter bicycles and gasoline scooters will be displayed. Lunch will be available for purchase on site from 11:30 to 2:00.

The Pacific Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee, the South Coast Interfaith Council, and the South Bay Energy Center are cosponsors of this important event.

The Pothole Factor

By Lori Geittmann

It is a political axiom that it is tough to beat an incumbent politician. Many attribute this to the money factor but in the March 6 election in Redondo Beach, I call it the pothole factor.

What is the pothole factor? The king of potholes was always said to be the late County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. It was reported that if you called Kenny's office on Monday to report a pothole in front of your house, that on Tuesday morning a crew was there to patch it.

This doesn't just apply to potholes but to tree trimming, street cleaning, trash collection and all the many city services that homeowners demand.

Pat Aust, the retired fire chief, soundly beat City Councilman Don Szerlip after losing the race four years ago. Reports from District 3 were that Szerlip failed to follow up on complaints about city services. Now I don't know how true this was but it seems to be the perception among some of the voters; in elections, perception is all.

When Szerlip made his pitch to various community groups, he argued that if reelected, he would be President of the LA chapter of the League of California Cities. Many voters said what good would that do us and what is the league anyhow.

Szerlip's unpopularity also may have hurt his wife's chances in the City Clerk race.

On the other hand, the two incumbents on the Redondo School Board won reelection, probably because they did respond quickly to complaints and concerns, meaning our endorsed challenger had an uphill battle she couldn't overcome.

So how do we as Democrats win out in nonpartisan races against Republicans? It appears that a party endorsement is not very effective. Why is this, especially in a year when Dems have done so well nationally?

Maybe it's time to go back to good old machine politics. I don't mean crooked machine politics; I mean the kind of politics in the big cities that took care of people. We can talk all we want about ending the war or provid-

ing health care but how does that translate into getting the pothole fixed in front of my driveway, which is what people want from city government?

For at least thirty years I have argued for a party service center: a phone number in the phone book that says, "Democratic Party of South Bay." That phone should be in an office, staffed by volunteers, who have a list of elected officials and agencies to contact when people have problems. Then if you have a zoning problem, we can refer you to whoever handles it and help you along the way. At the same time it means passing on concerns we hear to our elected legislators at the local, state and federal level.

This means when election time rolls around, the party has some meaning at the local level. This is a simplified version of how I would propose we develop a presence in local government.

However, it appears we will make the same old mistakes, sitting back until a few months before the next local elections and then thinking by being the Democratic Party alone we ought to be able to win.

James McGreevy—310-320-1638лэврирүү дэМ $\label{eq:condition} $$10-406-8057$$ ชนบุเท_W Steve Zucket—310-546-7562 əspqp1pA Moira Zucker—310-546-7562 19119ISMƏN Tyon-798-016—nosqmodT nnyJ фудляригу Open Captorno S Edna Murphy—310-545-6292 Jansvar I. Ray Waters—310-374-4744 Tre-President Lee Fink—310-370-3020 1uppisəid

Beach Cities

Democratic Club

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



BRING YOUR
STEEPING BANNERS!





April 12, 2007 8:00 AM—4 PM

South Side of LA City Hall

Tell the Mayor and LA City Council ...

We want leadership on homeless issues-Not lip service!

[see 10 point demands on reverse side]

Join us to hold policy makers <u>accountable</u> for ending and preventing homelessness!

[Note: This is a non-violent demonstration... and if people decide to sleep overnight it is at your risk of being arrested]



For more information: 213-439-1070 x101 www.lacehh.org (Parks, continued from page 1)

Park—would reclaim the property for a regional park, clean up contaminated aquifers, and restore saltwater wetlands. The plan would include a new desalinization plant.

Assemblyman Ted Lieu and State Senator Debra Bowen have written letters of support to the Coastal Conservancy encouraging their assistance with the project.



Bill Brand shows proposals for converting the AES site to park space.