

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

July, 2007

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 24, 7:30PM
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard
Redondo Beach

Our July meeting will feature Dave Buchanan from the Bill Richardson campaign, and an update from Jeff DuClos on the Green Building Campaign in Hermosa Beach.

Between now and November, 2008, BCDC will be focusing our energies on how to get a Democrat into the White House.

The 37th Congress Race Special Election ...

is over and Assemblywoman Laura Richardson is the new Congressperson for the 37th CD. Congrats to her.

One very important thing to remember of this race is that only 11% of the electorate in that district voted. We must do better in this country and this state. Our right to vote is so critical in any election. Yes, it is Summer and the living is easy and we sit and complain about all of the troubles our country is facing because of what

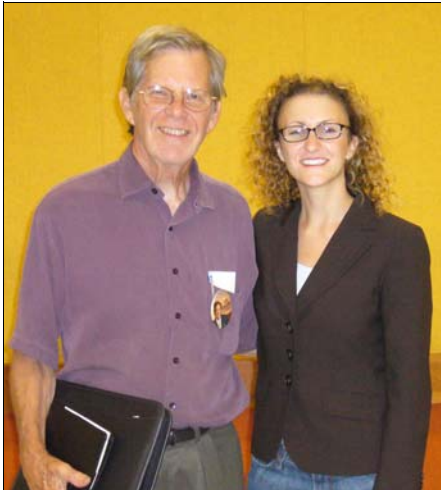
Bush and his administration have wrought on our people, and yet in an important election for Congress, only 11% thought it was important to vote!

What's wrong? We must do better in 2008 as a nation and exercise our right to vote. That is the message I would like to convey to my fellow Democrats.

Thank you to those in the 28th SD who supported Jenny in her effort to win the 37th CD.

Teresa Bird

New Officers



Ray Waters is our new president and Kathleen Paralusz, our new secretary. Not pictured: Bob Bohner—vice-president and Edna Murphy—treasurer.

Websites related to articles in this issue: Democratic Action Center—www.democraticactioncenter.com;
Ted Lieu's website—www.assembly.ca.gov/lieu; southbaycities.org; sbesc.com

Time to Pay Dues

Club dues were payable on June 1 for the July-'08—June-'09 year. Membership is \$25 per person or \$40 for two at the same address. Please fill out the membership form on page 4 and send it in with your check, or bring it to the next meeting.



Many club members spent time in the BCDC booth at the Riviera Fair on June 23—24. Diane Strack (second from right), who organized the booth, said it's important to have a presence in the city, which has a razor-thin margin of Democratic voters. We signed up at least 15 new voters and made money on the political buttons, including the one that says Impeach Bush. Photo courtesy of Becky Bayless.

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

This club belongs to the members and will only be effective if the members are



willing to be involved. Many of you cannot be at our meetings. You can still participate if you let us know how you want to help. You can pass on your suggestion for speakers, help in a booth on Labor Day or at a demonstration.

Here are the issues that I feel need our support: Ending our participation in the IRAQ War; Reducing Greenhouse Gases to save our Environment from accelerating Global Warming; Universal Healthcare for All; Clean Money; reversing the increased economic inequality in our society; correcting the No Child Left Behind Act. The list can go on and on.

Perhaps you are more interested in local issues. We have members who are or have been on local City Councils and commissions and in the Green Cities movement. Where do you think we should concentrate our efforts? There are so many areas of concern. Working together we can make a real difference.

I recently met with the incoming officers and others to plan for the coming year. With the 2008 election looming, we want to be a positive force. Precinct organization for the elections is a primary activity. We will coordinate our precinct activities with the 53rd AD Democratic Congress

which is now putting together a precinct workers' handbook to help make the activities of our club more productive. The evening was spent discussing the committees that we need and programs that might get more of our members to our meetings each month.

Among the programs we are considering are asking representatives of each presidential campaign to present a case for their candidate. Our members can learn more about each of the candidates.

The location of the Democratic Action Center office which was donated to Democratic causes will no longer be available after the end of August. The corporate donor is not allowed under federal law to make contributions when federal elections are involved. Efforts are being made to find a replacement in a store front somewhere in the South Bay. This is going to be a financial drain on local Democratic organizations. We will be continually raising funds for this cause.

We will continue to meet each month or so to reduce the need for nitty gritty discussions during the regular meeting. Among the evening's topics were Candidates and Campaigns, Resolutions, Phone Tree, Publicity and Membership. Decisions were made and volunteers took on responsibilities. The Club meeting this month will be led by Lori Geittmann as I will be out of town on a previously planned vacation. Bob Bohner our new Vice President is also unavailable on July 24.

Our club is a channel connecting you to the California Democratic Party and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. You are invited to get involved.

Ray Waters

June Recap

This month, Jacki Bacharach spoke to us about the activities of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (southbaycities.org). As executive director, Jacki leads the organization in helping our local cities make good decisions about quality of life. "We don't tell cities what to do," she said; their charter is to advise on local issues like public transportation, traffic congestion, and redevelopment. Working with elected officials, they promote legislation, rules and regulations that directly affect our neighborhoods.

One of their recent projects was a three-year study of residential-commercial districts. The Council wanted to come up with ways to deal with growth and density that would accommodate additional housing while minimizing the impact on traffic. Jacki said the State of California apportions population growth numbers to different regions and mandates the number of low, moderate, and high-income housing units that must be accommodated. When the State recently ordered 3,000 new units in Redondo Beach, the Council helped to get that number reduced. When negotiating, cities can point to factors like safety—such as the active landslide in Rancho Palos Verdes—and non-resident traffic, including household workers who travel in and out.

Jacki pointed out that the upside of population growth is that it encourages public transit. The Council has issued guidelines for cities to follow including ways to encourage walking and promoting "neighborhood vehicles"—golf carts—for use in the cities. The city of Palm Desert has special lanes for these small vehicles on their public streets. And in Redondo Beach, the Council was active in persuading Mayor Mike Gin to extend the Green Line from Marine Avenue to the Galleria.

Jacki described the many other activities of the organization. A recent

Calling Phone Tree Volunteers

If you have time to call five or six people a month, please speak up at the next meeting and we'll put you on the new phone tree. We need to start now to build up our network so that when the 2008 election finally arrives, we'll be mobilized for action.

success was their joining forces with Assemblyman Ted Lieu to pass a bill that would increase the Air Quality Management Board membership from 12 to 13.



Jacki Bacharach

They were also instrumental in starting up the South Bay Energy Savings Center (sbesc.com), a local clearinghouse for energy efficiency and water conservation information, training and materials. Their brochures describe ways to save energy and apply for rebates on everything from air conditioners to refrigerators.

We heard next from Jesse Swanhuysen from the California Fair Trade Coalition, which is made up of environmental, labor, consumer, family farm, and other groups. Founded in 1992 during the fight over the North American Free Trade Agreement

(NAFTA), the coalition is a leading advocate for “international trade policy that is not tilted in favor of the interests of multinational corporations and against the interests of the majority of the world’s people.”

Swanhuysen said that trade has become a difficult issue for the Democrats ever since NAFTA, which has led to a rise in poverty, a drop in wages, and a doubling of illegal immigration. Under NAFTA rules, foreign corporations can sue the United States for refusing to import carcinogenic products and they can overturn jury verdicts.

Jane Affonso said that the State Democratic Party adopted Resolution Number SD07.77 at its annual convention—Supporting a Balanced Global Economy. The measure calls on Representative Jane Harman to reject the Bush Administration’s request for Fast Track reauthorization, push to reform US trade policy, and safeguard local and state rules and regulations. The club voted to redraft the resolution to add our name, and to include Senators Feinstein and Boxer to the recipients.

Club Business

Bobbi Buescher reported from the nominating committee. Their original slate of officers was: Larry Fox, president; Ray Waters, vice-president; Kathleen Paralusz, secretary; and Edna Murphy, treasurer. It was subsequently learned that Larry is not available to serve, so the committee asked Ray to accept the presidential nomination and proposed Bob Bohner as VP. The new slate was accepted unanimously.

Diane Strack reported that we signed up 15 or 16 new Democrats at the Riviera Fair on June 23—24, most of them first-time voters, and took in about \$175.00. Top selling buttons were: Re-elect Al Gore; John Edwards ’08; and Impeach W.

Bobbi reported that the DAC discussed the impending grocery strike

and passed around postcards pledging not to shop at stores that lock out their workers. She announced that the CDC Convention is on August 10—12 at the Sheraton Gateway LAX.

Ray Waters reported that there were many visitors to the Solar Homes Tour sponsored by the Environmental Priorities Network. Ray’s home, and those of Dale Petrusis and Dency Nelson, were included on the tour.

From the Editor

Special thanks go to Jim McGreevy, who served as the guest editor for last month’s issue so I could go on vacation. We owe a lot to Jim, who also manages our website—and built it—and contributes stories and photos to the BCDC newsletter whenever he’s asked.

Book Review

American Dynasty by Kevin Phillips
MONROE WEINSTOCK

This book was written by an admittedly Republican historian, hardly a liberal or anti-Bush.

The indications throughout the history, beginning about four generations before George H. W. Bush, are that this is a family that has planted itself directly into the higher levels of political power since the Civil War in the USA.

It portrays a family noteworthy for its avarice; political immorality; political deceit; unethical behavior; and political criminality. To the Bush family there is no such thing as political morality or honesty or openness. This family has been hip deep in armament production and sales to anyone anywhere anytime. And of course the record speaks clearly regarding the involvement with major oil companies (Enron) and the ibn Saud family (Arabian).

George W. Bush today may be a chip off the old family block, but he ain’t the brightest bulb in the universe. In my opinion, he has done irreparable harm to the family name and tradition, so that it may take many generations for another Bush to rise to eminence politically.

This is not a simple book to browse through or read casually. It can get a bit heavy, but it touches many bases and exposes much that is never seen in the daily newspaper reports. And I guess it indicates that there is nothing in the family that would indicate any sexual misbehavior; they did not screw around!

I’m writing this because I feel quite strongly about George Dubya and think he & Dick Cheney should be IMPEACHED, with some prison time involved to boot!!!

Thus spake Zarathustra...or at least MONROE...

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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 _____

Phone _____ 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 checks payable to Beach Cities Democratic Club and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278