

# Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

November, 2007

## November Meeting

**Tuesday, November 27, 7:30**

**2000 Artesia Boulevard**

**Redondo Beach**

Our speaker will be Judith Alter, on safeguarding our election process. We also hope to have a speaker from the Kucinich campaign.

## — Holiday Party —

Our annual Holiday Party will be on **Sunday, December 9** at the home of Dale and Ken Petruilis in Redondo Beach. We have engaged our usual caterer for the traditional turkey-and-trimmings feast.

Our intrepid auctioneer Lee Fink will once again be officiating the White Donkey auction, so save your valuable giveaways.

Watch for your invitation!

There is no December club meeting.

## Region 17 Meeting

Various club presidents and leaders came to speak at the Region 17 conference on October 20 in Venice.

Clark Lee from the Los Angeles Democratic Club announced an issues forum to be held on October 27 at LA Trade Technical College on issues including health care and global climate change. Eric Bauman was to be one of the speakers.

Regional Director Sergio Carrillo spoke on a number of issues including the need to build the number of absentee voters, and how to become a delegate. Bobbi Buescher reported from our 53<sup>rd</sup> district on the precinct operations that will get underway in the local clubs.

Newly elected Congresswoman Laura Richardson addressed the meeting and said how happy she was no

longer to be the most junior member of congress now that Lily Tsongas has taken office. She talked about Congress's inability to override the president's SCHIP veto and the importance of voting more Democrats into both houses of Congress next year. Richardson does not want to approve further funding for Iraq without a timetable for withdrawal.

Kelly Willis, president of the West LA Democratic Club, talked about the importance of opening up a permanent headquarters that would be open every day throughout the 2008 campaign to support the election.

## Port Safety Conference

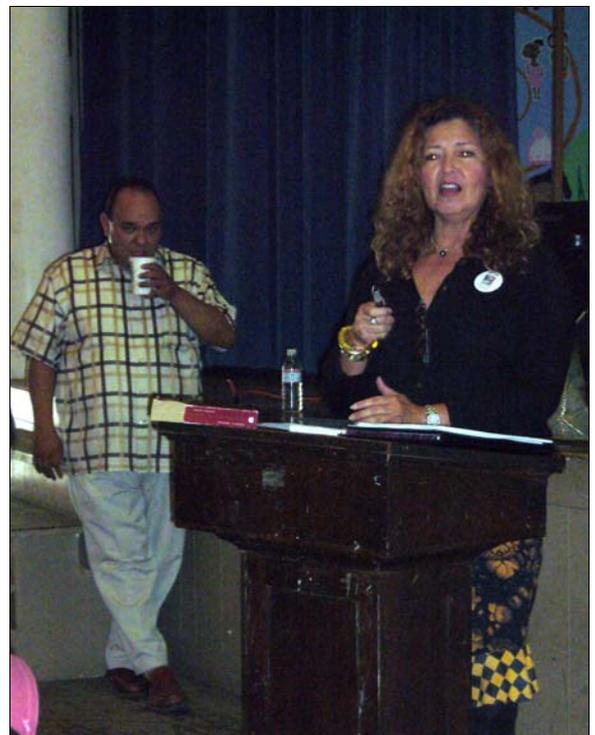
With 40 percent of the nation's goods containers flowing through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the goods movement industry affects all Southern Californians. Our health—from higher cancer rates, to exorbitant childhood asthma rates, to premature deaths—is directly impacted by emissions from container ships, cargo moving equipment, locomotives, and dirty diesel trucks.

The Trade, Health and Environment Impact Project (THE Impact Project), a community-academic partnership focused on reducing the impacts of international trade's impacts on health and community life, is hosting the "Moving Forward" conference.

The two-day conference will focus on the latest health related research findings, challenges for protecting our health, and developing strategies for a future plan of action. By attending the conference, you can continue to be part of the solution to our community's health crisis.

- ♦ What: THE Project Impact "Moving Forward" Conference
  - ♦ When: November 30 and December 1, 2007
  - ♦ Where: Carson Community Center, 701 E. Carson St., Carson, CA
- Registration Deadline: Friday, Nov. 16, 2007 at [theimpactproject.org](http://theimpactproject.org).

*Communities for Clean Ports*



*Bobbi Buescher, 53rd AD Club chair, addresses the Region 17 Democratic meeting in Venice as Regional Chair Sergio Carrillo looks on.*

*Visit our Website at [lafn.org/politics/bcdc](http://lafn.org/politics/bcdc)*

## I Support the Democrat

JIM MCGREEVY

I'd like to see any of the Democrats in the White House. I'll work for whoever wins the nomination. I'm in the "Anybody-But-Bush or Any Republican" campaign! The more liberal the better, but the liberal candidates are the ones least likely to win the nomination, and they're even less likely to win the general election if nominated.

I've heard Hillary speak at Democratic Conventions and events in the past and she sounded very liberal, and the Health Care bill that she worked on back in '93 was very good, until a bunch of "moderate" Democrats in Congress joined with the Republicans to kill it. I think that that was one of the main reasons that the Democrats lost their majority in the House in 1994: they turned off too many liberal Democrats who just didn't bother to vote.

It seems now that Hillary is overly influenced by big campaign donations with her support of a Health Care proposal that sounds exactly like Schwarzenegger's, written by the HMOs and insurance companies. She might just

be a stealth liberal candidate trying to appeal to conservatives, I don't know. And Obama and Edwards and most of the others have said things on occasion that I don't agree with.

Al Gore and Bill Clinton and a bunch of the 2008 candidates came out of the Democratic Leadership Council, which I don't like because of the DLC's support of NAFTA and any other "Free Trade" proposal that comes along (just like the Bushes). But I'll support any of the Democrats next year!

Many Bobby Kennedy supporters and most Eugene McCarthy supporters didn't vote for Hubert Humphrey in 1968 and look what that got us! Nixon, Reagan, Bush and Bush and all of the ills that each one implies! In the last weeks of the campaign Humphrey sounded much more liberal and started questioning the war and he shot up in the polls, but just for spite many liberal voters skipped the election (especially McCarthy supporters) and Humphrey barely lost.

I think that Nixon in '68 was the first stolen Presidential election, by the way.

## Blackwater=Brownshirts

TERESA BIRD

What a scary bunch! Did you ever think that we would have a private army in the United States? Remember the German people went around with their own ignorance of what was going on in their country as Hitler and his followers began the takeover of Germany.

There is a book exposing this group, but most Americans are too busy or too lazy to look into what is going on Here in America. We need the "free press," brave and intrepid reporters to let us in on what Blackwater is all about. Then maybe our legislators will be forced to scrutinize Blackwater.

They have land, airports, planes and other resources to begin a move-

ment like the one in Germany. The Bush Administration has provided millions of dollars to arm these mercenaries and to give them free rein in Iraq and who knows where else?

When I saw their leader on cable TV, I was shocked; here is this Aryan-looking character with a Hitler hair style testifying in Congress. How many people belong to this organization? Where are their land holdings, airports, military hardware, and funding coming from?

I guess I have to buy a book by a writer who is exposing them, instead of an investigative reporter from some newspaper or TV news station who will do their job and let the American people know that their freedom is in jeopardy. **WHERE ARE THE WOODSTEINS?**

## October Recap

This month we heard from Kristina Kinane, representing Hillary for President. Kinane is a recent UCLA graduate in political science and she spoke enthusiastically about Hillary's recent endorsements which include Congresswomen Hilda Solis and Susan Gerhardt and Maryland Treasurer Nancy Kopp.

The Hillary campaign has been focusing on Women Changing America, which kicked off with a record breaking fund-raising event. Women for Hillary Councils were launched in ten states across the country, comprised of elected officials and grassroots leaders who will talk about family-friendly policies on issues important to women.

Hillary's plans call for expansions to



*Kristina Kinane*

paid family leave programs at the state level and the Family Medical Leave Act, to ensure that parents are not forced to choose between keeping their jobs

and caring for their families.

There followed some discussion about Senator Clinton's vote in favor of designating Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a "specially designated global terrorist." Many view this as a wedge that will enable Bush to wage another misbegotten war, on Iran.

## Living Wages for Hotel Workers

We next heard from Marx Gutierrez, an organizer with LAANE—Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy. The organization is working for the rights of hotel workers in the LAX corridor to unionize and earn a living wage of \$10.26 per hour. The hotel

workers' union, UNITE HERE Local 11, has already won over two Sheraton hotels and is boycotting the Hilton LAX. Gutierrez said it's time-consuming work and takes about two years to unionize a hotel, but the effort ultimately pays off.

Bobbi reported from the October 20 Region 17 meeting in Venice. She said the attendance was low and few people outside the 53<sup>rd</sup> AD showed up. One of the groups represented was the 4-Star Democratic Club and Citizens for Veteran's Rights, and they will be holding a forum on Saturday, November 10 on issues confronting the active-duty military.

Jim Kennedy reported from Jane Harman's office. He said that Jane's Town Hall meeting was picketed by the Armenian community over her recent withdrawal of support for HR 106, the Armenian genocide resolution.

Opinion is divided on this, but the Democratic majority determined that now is not the time to stir up trouble



*Marx Gutierrez*

with our important ally Turkey. Jane's op-ed piece gave cover to other Democrats wanting to postpone the resolution.

Jane is also waiting to see markups to the No Child Left Behind bill and will vote against it if necessary. She invites comments from constituents. She is also calling for changes to wire-tapping legislation to ensure legality.

Last, the use of the AES power plant property in Redondo Beach is under discussion again. Many residents want to see the 40 to 60 acre site developed into a park.

Kennedy closed with the announcement that he will soon be moving to a new position, working for Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

Lori Geittmann reported that she was on a conference call about SB 840, Sheila Kuehl's Single Payer health plan for California. Governor Schwarzenegger has tried to appropriate the issue but his version does not limit the amount Californians would have to pay.

Teresa Bird reported that Rick Marshall, running for Torrance School Board, has his own children in home schooling and consistently opposes school funding. It is important to oppose this candidate. She also spoke about Jenny Oropeza's current bills, one that would ban smoking in cars containing minors and another that would allow newly-sworn citizens to register to vote as late as Election Day.

in these pages??

People who have contributed articles, announcements, and useful information include Teresa Bird, Lori Geittmann, Vanessa Poster, Bobbi Buescher, Diane Strack, Lillian Light, and Kathleen Paralusz.

Last but certainly not least is Steve Zucker, who maintains our database and mails out the newsletter.

Thank you very much, everyone, and may your holidays be bright.

*Moirra Zucker*

## Monroe Redux

Truth, language, morality, perception all wrap together to determine what we do and who we are. Defining torture is today's major political issue. It isn't what we know that matters but what we believe that controls our actions.

Almost 100 years ago, Woodrow Wilson said, "There are men in this country big enough to own the government of the United States. They are going to own it if they can." My personal guess is that they come closer to owning it every day, especially with the likes of Dubya in the "Cat-bird seat." In 1948, George Orwell wrote the book "1984" describing Big Brother who delves into every nook & cranny of our existence. President George has the dubious distinction of bringing Big Brother to fruition. He has us all under his surveillance microscope, with the acquiescence of an ineffective Congress who allowed it to happen.

There are many who consider him to be a liar, incurious, lacking common sense, devoid of intelligence, & incompetent. Well, you can look where he is taking & has taken us today! Dubya has said he has the right to open people's mail. He started a War (based on a "LIE") which extends to eternity. He asserts that his office is not subject to any watchdog oversight. And finally, he claims the authority to disobey more than 750 laws enacted since he has been in office.

I just paused to re-read what I've written so far & my cup runneth over with fear, anger, resentment, and mostly frustration. With a little more than a year to the end of this administration, I still think the Senate, the House, and the Judiciary should unite, combine & agree to remove both Cheney & Bush by impeachment. This malignant chancre must go NOW!



*Monroe Weinstock*



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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

I volunteer to:

Telephone   
  Help with mailing   
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  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