

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

May, 2009

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, May 27
7:30 PM

At our may meeting, we'll hear from Kate Anderson, another of the candidates running for the 53rd Assembly District seat. This is the also the month when we nominate officers for the next year. Come and participate in helping to select candidates for leadership of our club in the June election.

Upcoming Green Events

Excerpts From the Green Building Corner

If the growing attendance at recent events is any indication, the message of sustainable living has become part of the mainstream vernacular. The message isn't falling on deaf ears. There are many events coming up in May and early June:

On **Sunday, May 17**, from noon to 4:00PM, the "Healthy Living Festival" will be held in downtown Manhattan Beach at Metlox Plaza and 13th Street. The local environmental organization VOICE will be there offering free water bottles for new membership sign-ups. For more information visit www.greenervoices.org or call 310-226-2927.

On **Thursday, May 21** at 6:00PM, Leadership Hermosa Beach's monthly meeting will be on Environmental and Community Welfare. Angela Mason from the Hermosa Beach Community Development Department will speak on the city's commitment to lowering our carbon footprint and the newly appointed Green Task Force. At the Hermosa Beach Council Chambers;

for more information contact Rashel Mereness at rashelm@yahoo.com or at 310-463-8953.

Saturday, May 23, through Monday, May 25, is Fiesta Hermosa. This year the Green Task Force and the school's PlanetPals will be sharing a booth

near the corner of Pier and Hermosa Avenues. There will be information on "green-related" items and a fundraising raffle for an exciting prize. To volunteer at the table, contact me at DLN52@verizon.net or Angela Mason at amason@hermosabch.org. And don't forget, Fiesta Hermosa is going "uber-green" this year with clean-fuel buses, biodegradable and recyclable food containers, and more! Thank you Carla Merriman and the Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce!

On **Saturday morning, June 6**, from 8:30AM to 1:00PM, join Ed Begley, Jr., and others, including representatives from Surfrider Foundation, for a Water Conservation and Ocean Friendly Gardens workshop at the



At the State Democratic Convention, our own former club President Bobbi Buescher received the Volunteer of the Year Award for Region 17 from Regional Director Sergio Carrillo. Photo courtesy of Lori Geitmann.

Hermosa Beach Council Chambers. Registration, 8:00AM. Contact Angela Mason at amason@hermosabch.org for more information.

On **Saturday, June 13**, the City of Torrance will be hosting an Environmental Fair from 10:00AM to 3:00PM at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance. Many organizations will be onsite. I will be there with other representatives from PlugInAmerica.org with several electric vehicles, including the exciting Tesla Roadster! For more information call 310-618-5929.

*Dency Nelson
DLN52@verizon.net*

Visit our Website at lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President

Ray Waters

Exciting news: The 53rd AD members of the Los Angeles

County Democratic Party have selected two of our members to be honored at the Franklin D and Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Annual Dinner.

The Woman of the Year is our treasurer, Edna Murphy. The Man of the Year is our environmental activist, Dency Nelson. The place, time and date of the event will be announced later this month. Keep tuned for further details which should be available by the time of our meeting May 27.

At this month's meeting, you will also have the opportunity to meet Kate



Anderson, another of the candidates running for the 53rd Assembly District seat. This is the also the month when we nominate officers for the next year. Come and participate in helping to select candidates for leadership of our club in the June election.

Currently we need to support the President in getting a Health Care system that is universal in its coverage. I hope everyone calls Jane Harman, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to register your support for a public health insurance option in the health care bill that is before Congress. The Public Health Insurance Option, which is threatened by the opposition of the insurance companies, is a plan that will provide a choice between your current health insurance and a plan similar to Medicare and available to everyone.

As in Medicare, you have a choice of doctors and hospitals. The public health insurance will not provide for

profits to be spent on dividends or bonuses and it will always be available. No one need go uninsured. Preexisting conditions will not void your coverage.

To support this, let our representatives know it is vital. Call: Jane Harman at 310-643-3636 or 202-224-3121; Barbara Boxer at 213-894-5000 or 202-224-3121; and Dianne Feinstein at 310-914-7300 or 202-224-3814.



Dency Nelson at the wheel of the all-electric Tesla. Photo from the creativegenius web-site, at creativegenius.wordpress.com.

Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

We are now facing the beginnings of a massive avalanche of illegal, immoral, evil, unimaginable filth & mismanagement by the Bush/Cheney administration these past eight years. As Al Jolson would have said, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!!!!"

The Justice Department has begun to release copies of documents outlining the interrogation methods used by the CIA. Prisoners kept awake for more than a week at a time; insects stuffed inside the box with the prisoner; prisoners stripped naked; prisoners thrown violently against walls; prisoners kept in stressful positions; prisoners kept in tight narrow confinement; frequent face slapping & insulting of prisoners.

My initial reaction is not to blame the guards, but look to the devious



mentality that suggested, condoned, & validated these actions. From my service during WWII, the quotation was, "The fish stinks from the head!" and the head here goes directly to the Bush/Cheney White House. In 2004 the CIA inspector general described the interrogation so horrifically that even director Tenet suspended the program. The real question to ask now is could we have learned the same information from the prisoners, without extreme excessive abuse???

I must assume that those of you who read my column have many sources of news & information, so I can move to the meat of my attitude and opinion for action. We must begin with a "TRUTH COMMISSION" to decide who are most guilty.

In my opinion, the culprits are as follows: from the Office of Legal Counsel, there is John C. Yoo, Steven Bradbury & Jay S. Bybee (who is presently a federal judge in Las Vegas). The Justice Dept. was headed by Alberto Gonzalez, who in reply to George

Dubya's order to JUMP, asked, "How High???" And from the administration, there is Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Addington, Scooter Libby (who was convicted of perjury in another case), our very own "Darth Vader" VP Dick Cheney, and without doubt our recent ex-president George Dubya Bush. I also must assume that there are many more revelations to be revealed & to be equally condemned.

Medals & accolades should be given to Jack Goldsmith & James Comey who resigned from the Justice Dept. rather than allow the horrendous interrogation techniques used by the CIA. Another vote of confidence goes to the ACLU for getting the facts aired & available for the public to read.

We should chain the convicted Bozos together, locked in a small enclosure, 20 years to life sentence, no possibility of parole, and forced to continuously watch what was done during the torture interrogations. And I think this lets them off relatively easy!!!!

April Recap: The Ballot Propositions

This month we focussed on the upcoming election in May and whether to support any or all of the propositions. The LA County Committee strongly supports all the measures, but opinion is deeply divided among other Democratic groups.

The League of Women Voters has taken a neutral position on 1B, Education Funding, and 1F, Elected Officials' Salaries, and they oppose the rest. The Torrance Democratic Club opposes all the propositions, while the California Teachers Association supports them all.

BCDC decided to take no position but did pass this resolution on the legislative majority issue:

We urge the Democratic leadership to do all they can to replace the 2/3 majority requirement with a simple majority vote to pass the budget and to raise taxes.

A letter will be sent to all statewide Democratic officeholders.

Attendees discussed the Employee Free Choice Act, which is supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress.

The act would enable working people to bargain for better benefits, wages and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. It would do this by removing current obstacles to employees who want collective bargaining, guaranteeing that workers who can choose collective bargaining are able to achieve a contract, and allowing employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation. Senator Dianne Feinstein has not yet said she will support the act, and members are urged to write letters.

The Nominating Committee has been formed, consisting of Bobbi Buescher, Lori Geittmann, Teresa Bird, and Tony Hale. They will assemble a slate of officers to be voted on in June.

Anne Faas and Lori reported on their work with the South Bay Homeless Coalition. The Beach Cities Health District and the Health Department are among the groups involved.

We heard a report from Ted Lieu's office that his Water Conservation measure, Assembly Bill 1061, has passed. The legislation will significantly increase water conservation across the

state. It will remove obstacles by permitting homeowners in common interest developments to conserve water by installing water efficient landscaping.

The West Basin Water District will inspect irrigation and water usage free of charge. Call 866-861-0784 to schedule an appointment and see if you qualify for a free irrigation controller.

Other topics at the meeting ranged from fair trade coffee to single payer health to the torture memos. Fair trade coffee ensures farmers a living wage from their work, and it can be found at Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, and Peet's.

Senator Mark Leno's involvement with Sheila Kuehl's single payer health plan, SB 810, was also brought up. Assemblyman Leno took up the cause when Kuehl was termed out of office. The bill would guarantee health care benefits to every California resident by putting state government in charge of paying for medical care. It passed the state Senate's Health Committee in April and now advances to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

It was announced that the monthly antiwar demonstrations continue in Hermosa Beach at the corner of Pier and Pacific Coast Highway.

Notes for this article courtesy of Peggy Carter

FROM MOVEON.ORG

5 Things you Need to Know about Obama's Public Health Insurance Option

The choice of a public health insurance plan is crucial to real health care reform. But right now, it's being smeared by conservatives and insurance-industry front groups. Here's what you really need to know:

1. Choice, choice, choice. If the public health insurance option passes, Americans will be able to choose between their current insurance and a high-quality, government-run plan similar to Medicare. If you like your current care, you can keep it. If you don't—or don't have any—you can get the public insurance plan.

2. It will be high-quality coverage with a choice of doctors. Government-run plans have a track record of innovating to improve quality, because they're not just focused on short-term profits. And if you choose the public plan, you'll still get to choose your doctor and hospital.

3. We'll all save a bunch of money. The public health insurance option won't have to spend money on things like CEO bonuses, shareholder dividends, or excessive advertising, so it'll cost a lot less. Plus, the private plans will have to lower their rates and provide better value to compete, so people who keep their current insurance will save, too.

4. It will always be there for you and your family. A for-profit insurer

can close, move out of the area, or just kick you off their insurance rolls. The public health insurance option will always be available to provide you with the health security you need.

5. And it's a key part of universal health care. No longer will sick people or folks in rural communities, or low-income Americans be forced to go without coverage. The public health insurance plan will be available and accessible to everyone. And for those struggling to make ends meet, the premiums will be subsidized by the government.

We all need to speak out to make sure we get real health reform. Please call your senators and ask them to support the choice of a public health insurance plan.

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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 _____

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