

## Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel  
1808 North Sepulveda Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach  
Wednesday, September 23  
7:30 PM

BCDC club member and Chairman of the South Bay 350 Climate Action Group, Joe Galliani, will be our featured speaker at the September meeting to talk about the activities for 10/24.

Climate change is one of the most critical items on the President's agenda, so come hear about how we can keep pushing toward a solution. Dency Nelson will chair this month's meeting.

## The Cause of Our Lives

By Lee Fink

Early in the morning of August 26, 2009, Senator Ted Kennedy passed away. For nearly 47 years he was a dominant figure in American politics; the Liberal Lion of the Senate. In the last half-century, if there was an increase in the minimum wage, a protection for workers, a reform to treat immigrants more humanely, an improvement in education, an advancement in civil rights, and most importantly an expansion of health care, Ted Kennedy was involved with it; in most cases, he was the person directly responsible for it.

His acts as a public servant were always those that, because of his station in life had no direct applicability to him. His wealth meant that he needed no worker or wage protections; his family's long history meant that immigrant protections did not affect his kin; and his holdings and position as a Senator meant that he did not need the government's protection to assure that he had the finest health care in the world up until the moment he died.

And yet, until his last day, he fought to ensure that every American, no matter what their station or wealth, would have the same rights and privileges that he enjoyed. His older brothers were known

for inspiring a generation of Americans, but more than any person in history, he turned vision into the reality of a trail of legislation that has touched all of our lives.

We know, of course, that he left with one bit of work still unfinished. Despite all his triumphs, he made it clear for 47 years that providing quality affordable health care to every American was the cause of his life. His ideas sometimes fell out of favor. The optimism of the 1960's, when he and his brothers served together, fell into the cynicism of the 1970's, the cuts of the Reagan era, the partisanship of the 1990's, and the callousness of the last eight years. But he persevered, and bit-by-bit expanded health care and laid the groundwork for important reform. And while he is gone, he did not leave the cause untended. The last year of his life was dedicated to electing a new President to whom he could pass the torch, which had been passed by his brothers to him.

But he did not leave it just in the hands of a new President, but in a nation whose optimism is renewed, a nation more hopeful than it has been in decades, a nation whose citizens once again believe in the creed by which he lived his life—that we are our brother's keeper, that we are our sister's keeper. He left behind a

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Young supporters of Health Care Reform came out in droves at Congresswoman Maxine Waters's Town Hall Meeting in August.

## Civility Comes to the Health Care Debate

On Saturday, August 22, Congresswoman Maxine Waters held a Town Hall meeting on health care at Los Angeles Southwest College in Inglewood. Instead of the usual disorderly audience, however, there were no catcalls or clashes in Waters's meeting.

Instead, the more than 400 people in

attendance listened quietly, applauded, and held up friendly signs during her presentation, then lined up in the aisles to ask the Congresswoman for help.

Following her speech, Waters listened to each and every question/statement from the audience and directed her staff to help individual cases where constituents had been neglected by the health care system.

## BEACH CITIES GREEN

By Dency Nelson

On Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 am to noon, hundreds of people will descend upon Southern California beaches for the annual Coastal Cleanup Day. Just show up at Torrance Beach, Redondo Beach, Redondo Beach King Harbor, Hermosa Beach Pier or Manhattan Beach Pier, and we'll scour the beaches together, picking up all the trash in our paths.

I was talking with a friend recently about this annual tradition, and we both agreed that for years cigarette butts were overwhelmingly the predominant trash item on the beach. Since most of our beaches now have no-smoking ordinances, cigarette butts today play second fiddle to plastics, in particular the little bits of polystyrene from Styrofoam cups, plates and fast food containers. This stuff never completely breaks down, and not only winds up on our beaches but makes up a good part of that Texas-sized mass of plastic bottles and other plastic trash



floating out in the Pacific Ocean. There really isn't a good plastic, especially when it winds up on our beaches and in our waterways, but I thought that Coastal Cleanup Day might be a good time to remind us about the varieties of plastics and what those little recycling symbols mean, and just how recyclable (or not) those plastics really are. So here we go, courtesy of [www.care2.com/greenliving](http://www.care2.com/greenliving):

- ◆ Number 1 Plastics: PET or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)

Most commonly found in soda and water bottles. Usually down cycled to make items like polar fleece, tote bags, fibers and carpet. Still, the recycle rate for these plastic bottles is only around 20%.

- ◆ Number 2 Plastics: HDPE (high density polyethylene)

Milk jugs, household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, some garbage bags and cereal box liners. Generally recycled into, for example, laundry detergent bottles, plastic lumber, pens and floor tiles.

- ◆ Number 3 Plastics: PVC (polyvinyl chloride)

Found in clear food packaging and some window cleaner and detergent bottles. Not as readily recycled as 1 and 2. Just plain nasty stuff.

- ◆ Number 4 Plastics: LDPE (low density polyethylene)

After PETE, this is the stuff we see most of, as it's what goes into plastic shopping bags, bread and frozen food bags, and squeeze dispenser bottles. LDPE is becoming easier to turn in for recycling and can be used to make trash can liners, etc.

- ◆ Number 5 Plastics: PP (polypropylene)

Bottle caps, plastic drinking straws, some plastic food containers and medicine bottles. PP is one of the more commonly accepted plastics for recycling and can become signal lights, brooms and brushes, ice scrapers and landscaping borders.

- ◆ Number 6 Plastics: PS (polystyrene)

The abovementioned "disposable" cups and plates and Styrofoam carryout-container material that never goes away. Fairly difficult to recycle (many areas do not accept it, despite the little recycle 6 symbol) and proven to leach carcinogenic toxins in many instances.

- ◆ Number 7 Plastics: Everything else
- This is the number they slap on whatever

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## Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

President Obama & the Democrats face a surly, angry, demoralized & confused Republican party, which can be characterized today as "The Party of NO, NO, NO!" Today the health care system in the USA borders on the verge of destruction; both parties agree it needs repair; but the "Party of NO" makes every effort to drive us all back to the Dark Middle Ages.

Fact is, a major focus of the "Party of NO" is Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, MD & Ph.D. who was chairman of Bioethics at the National Institute of Health. Along with Dr.



Victor Fuchs, economics professor at Stanford, they have proposed a "Guaranteed Healthcare Access Plan."

This GHAP encompasses seven essential elements: a) Guaranteed coverage for every American (each gets a voucher to select standard benefits; each chooses one insurance provider); b) Effective cost control (administered by a National Health Board which is politically independent; an institute to evaluate the effectiveness of procedures); c) High quality coordinated care (each can add additional coverage); d) Choice of physician provider; e) Fair funding mechanism (no exclusion for pre-existing conditions; coverage same as Congressmen & Senators now receive); f) Reasonable dispute resolution (tort reform); g) Economic revitalization for business & labor

(discontinue company insurance, 100% portability; complete security from job loss).

Most recently, the under-educated ex-governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, along with Pat (right wing dingbat) Buchanan and Lyndon (pseudo-intellectual gadfly) LaRouche, Jr., have been calling Dr. Emanuel a Deadly Doctor, because his plan suggests that we all have a "Living Will," so that if we are incapacitated & cannot communicate, our desires are known in cases of severe extreme need.

The "Party of NO, NO, NO" has no program, no organized plans, and no ideas for future direction for health-care and for the country!!!

## August Recap

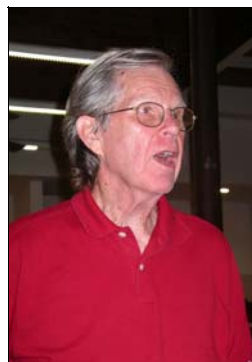
Moira Zucker called the meeting to order and opened with a tribute to the late Senator Edward Kennedy, followed by a moment of silence. Written by Lee Fink, the eulogy was eloquent and moving. Moira also reported on a Health Care Town Hall Meeting in Maxine Waters's district (see page 1) which had been as civil and informative as other such meetings have been disorderly.

We heard campaign reports from Howard Fishman and Michael Keegan, both running for Hermosa Beach City Council. Michael is an incumbent and Howard was elected to the post in 2005 but stepped down because of his wife's terminal illness. The third Democrat in the race is Jeff DuClos.

Following statements by Fishman and Keegan, the club approved a motion to endorse both speakers and another motion to spend up to \$500 for a slate mailer that will promote all three Democratic candidates. Tony Hale volunteered to work on preparing the slate card.

Our former club president Ray Waters announced that he is running for School Board in Hermosa Beach. Ray is not asking for contributions and does not plan to spend lots of money in his campaign other than buying some signs that he is paying for himself. He was asked to run by an outgoing school board member and feels strongly about protecting the quality of the city's public schools, especially in the current economic straits. Ray's career was as an educator at all levels from elementary through high school.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Garcia introduced himself to the club. He has served as a temporary judge in San Pedro and Torrance and is running



August speakers included (l to r) Irving Pacheco from Ted Lieu's office, Ray Waters, candidate for Hermosa Beach School Board, and Howard Fishman, running for Hermosa Beach City Council. Pictured below, guest speakers Linda Green and Jeff Gabriel.

for a seat in next year's election to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

We heard from Irving Pacheco, Ted Lieu's representative, on the prison bill that would cut overcrowding by about 17,000 non-violent inmates. The amended bill would reduce the prison population by allowing some prisoners to be released early if they complete certain rehabilitation programs; change the state's parole system so that some low-risk offenders would not be subject to parole revocation; and allow certain felons who violate probation to serve time in county jails. Irving said that Ted Lieu was not in support of the bill, and a lively debate ensued.

Moira read a report sent by Jenny Oropeza's representative Primitivo Castro, who was unable to attend because he was on a short paternity leave. The report contained an

announcement of the Senator's Day of Remembrance and Service events, in which her office would collect canned goods for the Southern California Food Bank and support various blood drives. Oropeza is also working to pass Senate Bill 24 to help protect cargo in the ports in California, and SB 18, Save our Seniors, to help protect the state's aging population from elder abuse.

Our featured speakers for the evening were local activist Linda Green and Jeff

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*Beach Cities  
Democratic Club*



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*(Green, Continued from page 2)*

isn't 1–6. Everything from 5-gallon water jugs to computer cases, DVDs and a whole lot of other stuff. Many local recycling programs won't take number 7 because they don't know for sure what it is. This is a bummer, because as of right now, many compostable products carry a number 7 on them and are therefore getting tossed.

Bottom line is, don't assume that if it has a number and you've put it in curbside recycling, it is being recycled. Call your local waste management service (you'll find the number on your monthly bill) and ask them directly which of the numbered plastics they actually recycle. Try your best to use as little of any of this stuff as you possibly can. Think reusable, refillable, compostable. Keep this stuff out of our waterways and landfills and off of our beaches. You'll be seeing a lot of it on September 19!

*(Recap, continued from page 3)*

Gabriel, our regional director for Organizing for America. Their focus was on health care, and Jeff described the campaign to involve Democrats in helping push through the legislation that is being stonewalled by Republicans. The Obama plan would provide security and stability, quality choices, and manageable costs, and would eliminate the near-monopoly held by the health insurance companies.

Jeff talked about local OFA activities including training weekends and listening tours being held throughout the country. He urged members to contact their representatives and demand that they support a robust public option.

**Announcements:**

- ♦ The 2009 CDC Convention will be held in San Diego on September 26-27. For more information go to [newsletter@cdc-ca.org](mailto:newsletter@cdc-ca.org).
- ♦ The Club seeks volunteers to work in the booth at the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair October 3 and 4.

*(Cause, continued from page 1)*

nation of millions who are ready, finally, to fulfill his goal of universal health care.

What was Ted Kennedy's cause must now become the cause of our lives. Ted Kennedy brought this movement to the brink of success, and now we must take it the rest of the way. We must knock on doors, write letters, attend town meetings, hold fund-raisers, and put pressure on every member of Congress until it finally delivers to President Obama the Edward M. Kennedy Universal Healthcare Act. We may hear Republicans say we should not rush this—but if an issue can outlive the third longest serving Senator in history, then we have waited too long. We may hear that it runs up record deficits—but Republican Presidents never stopped running up the record deficits that Senator Kennedy opposed. We have lost our most eloquent voice in this debate, but his vision and inspiration will guide our way.

Ted Kennedy has passed away, but "the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die."