



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

April, 2012

## Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread and Bagel  
1808 N. Sepulveda Boulevard  
Manhattan Beach  
Wednesday, April 25  
7:30 PM

We will get to hear from Al Muratsuchi, who will be there with his campaign manager, Sergio Carrillo, to talk about strategies for winning in the new 66th Assembly District.

## President's Message

Dear BCDC members and supporters:

Are you focused on winning in June? We have just under two months before the June Primary. The question we need to ask:

What can I do to contribute to the election of Al Muratsuchi? The new Open Primary system in California means that the top 2 candidates in the June Primary will be the only 2 candidates in the General Election in the November.

This is of particular importance in our new 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. There are two Republican candidates running against Al. One is the founder of the South Bay Tea Party who is currently trying to portray himself as a moderate Republican. Nathan Mintz is *not* a moderate Republican.

The other is a very wealthy Republican who made his money as a direct mail advertiser (all of those things in your mailbox that you hate and continuously recycle!). He fully intends to purchase this office by flooding our mailboxes. Craig Huey could not *ever* represent us. He does not support a woman's right to make health decisions. He is against public education. He believes that climate change is a myth!

With the Open Primary, we could end up

with two Republican candidates on the ballot in November. Sometimes Democrats don't vote in June because they "know" they will be able to vote for a Democrat in November—because there is always a Democrat on the ballot. Not so anymore—we have Open Primary.

Your help is needed to strategize how the members of the Beach Cities Democratic Club will ensure that Al Muratsuchi will win the Primary in June. We are the key! Please join us at our April meeting. We will meet with Al and Sergio Carrillo, Al's campaign manager, to develop strategies to win.

Additionally: We have some more information from the California Democratic Convention. Congratulations to our BCDC member, Tony Hale, who was elected as the Chairperson of the Environmental Caucus.

Now is the time to make sure that our friends and neighbors are registered to vote! We expect Republican money and ads in our area—and an increase in Republicans voting in the June Primary. This will be challenge for us because of the Open Primary.

At March meeting, members decided

that we would continue to re-register Democrats for Permanent Vote by Mail. Bring the completed forms to the April meeting.

If you need an additional copy of the form, you can print it from the LA County Registrar of Voters website: [http://www.lavote.net/Voter/Absentee\\_Voting.cfm](http://www.lavote.net/Voter/Absentee_Voting.cfm)

Membership in the BCDC will also help encourage everyone to become more informed, get active and vote. BCDC is now accepting new and renewal memberships for the 2012-13 membership period. There are several ways that you can become a member or renew your membership:

- 1) You can find a printable membership application on our website. <http://www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc>
- 2) If you would like to renew or become a new member online, you can go directly to this website: <https://secure.actblue.com/page/bcdemocraticclub>
- 3) Come to a meeting or an event to get a membership form.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the April meeting on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Think blue in the South Bay!

*Diane Wallace, President*



*Al Muratsuchi addressing the membership at our March fund raising event at the home of Dale Petruilis (left).*

## Our Man in Washington

For the last 3+ years, I have had the privilege of working in the Administration of President Obama, first for a period at the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, and for the last 2.5+ years at NASA—where we are literally charting the future of humanity. But every four years we have to elect a President. With the 2012 election already upon us, I am sure it does not surprise you that I am re-upping for this critical campaign.

Starting next Monday, I will be the Statewide Voter Protection Director for the Obama-Biden Campaign in Iowa. We will be putting together an organization of attorneys and poll watchers to make sure that everyone can vote, and all the votes are counted. This means I will be away from DC until the election (or the recount) is over. After that, I hope to return to DC for a second term.

To my friends and family in the Los

Angeles area, I hate to say it is yet more time that I will be away from home (a fact made even more painful by the promise of the Dodgers' 3-1 start and their new ownership group). But hopefully it is in service of a greater cause.

And to my friends and family on the other side of the aisle . . . well, we plan to win.

In the meantime, my basic contact information remains the same as below. I don't have a regular address yet in Iowa (I will be based at the state headquarters in Des Moines), so if you have something to send me, e-mail me and I will get you the best address.

Lee Fink  
leekfink@alum.calberkeley.org  
(310) 809-7279

PS—for the last few years, I have been prohibited by the Hatch Act from raising money for any political campaign. But having left NASA on Friday, I am now

free, and let's face it—I am hoping that you can contribute some money just to pay my salary (and maybe allow me to hire a couple of deputies). So please contribute at the link below.

<https://my.barackobama.com/page/outreach/view/2012/leefinkfundraising>

*Lee Fink, former BCDC President*



*Our candidate Al Muratsuchi at the fund raiser was introduced by Lori Geittmann (right).*

## Monroe's Ruminations

Monroe Weinstock

On March 22, 2012 the Wall Street Journal featured an article on the front page. It was



about a son of Texas school teachers who build a financial empire, starting with a small drugstore in 1960. Harold Simmons & his wife Annette have contributed \$11.4 Million to GOP super-pacs. Mr. Simmons admits that he has "lots of money, and can give it legally now...just never to Democrats.

Mr. Simmons' businesses are heavily regulated & he obviously is quite serious

about de-regulation. He makes it a point to wear \$3,000 Brioni sport coats while buying Walmart underwear, as a throw-back to his upbringing. He is more than willing to take advantage of the regulatory changes that allow unlimited donations to advocate for any candidate or political party he chooses. He admits to being a corporate raider who can & will spend whatever it takes to maintain his ability to write the rules for his personal benefit...at the expense of middle class Americans.

Mr. Simmons was a key donor for the Swift Boat Veterans attack ads that helped sink John Kerry's Campaign against George Dubyah in 2004. This year he works closely with the infamous Karl Rove & his American Crossroads group to help defeat Barack Obama and get

GOP control of Congress.

I write this column to portray what the USA has become...a Russian Oligarchy!!! If our Supreme Court can see fit to combine justice with financial capability, then we can no longer qualify as the country where "one person gets one vote." Looking at this horrendous situation, we must turn to the young vibrant exciting meaningful & logical "OCCUPIERS." We must get the USA back on track to maintain equality, freedom & the ability to rise out of the dung-heap of abusive injustice. Our founding fathers were not saints, supermen or paragons of virtue, but they knew the difference between right & wrong...and Mr Simmons, Karl Rove, & the GOP are DEAD WRONG!!!!!!



## March Meeting Recap

The following report is an edited version of minutes from the meeting courtesy of Kathy Campbell

We heard a special presentation by Jamarah Harris, Coordinator, Community Outreach on Work for California Attorney General Kamala Harris (they are not related).

Highlights: The Attorney General has filed an amicus brief for the Affordable Care Act, and also against the Arizona Immigration Law.

Harris has been very focused on fraud in homeowner's lending issues for the last year. She wrapped up 13 months of negotiations with the five largest banks, an \$18 billion settlement, up from the initial offer of \$2B. The banks sought immunity, which Harris did not approve. Most of the money is going to homeowners, but some will be going towards enforcement and community organizations trying to support homeowners. The legislation still has to be approved in Washington. There is relief available including principal reduction and foreclosure options. Banks are supposed to reach out to eligible homeowners. They have hired an independent CA Monitor, law professor Katie Porter, to make sure that homeowners do get notified. If you lost your home due to an unlawful foreclosure, you can still pursue the case in court.

Harris warns people to beware of predatory foreclosure rescue services as well. The website [www.HUD.gov](http://www.HUD.gov) has a list of legitimate sources of legal advice. They are still trying to negotiate something with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Harris has also proposed a Homeowners' Bill of Rights related to servicing standards for banks that operate in CA, like providing a single point of contact at the bank. It is up for a vote on 4/16 by the State Senate Banking Committee; they would like our support and expect the banks to fight it.

The AG's office also reached a settlement with Ports of Long Beach about their responsibility to notify people about the health impact of their operations.



Above: Veronica Zendejas reporting from Ted Lieu's office; (right) speaker Jamarah Harris from Attorney General Kamala Harris's office



Finally, Kamala Harris is interested in educational equity and truancy reduction. She is one of 20 co-chairs of Obama's re-election campaign.

### Treasurer's Report

Edna Murphy reported that the accountant recommended by the LA County Democratic Party charged us \$220, not \$202 as reported last month, to enter and electronically file the written reports that she gave them for a six month period.

Financial Report for the period ending 3/12/12:

Beginning Balance \$1,008 (Federal), \$43 (State)

Deposits & Transfers: \$ 0 (Federal or State)

Expenditures & Transfers: \$341 (Federal) for reporting services provided by Crummitt & Associates and the club's post office box, \$30 (State) Ending Balance \$ 667 (Federal), \$13 (State)

Edna was asked to investigate alternative sources to Crummitt for filing that may be less expensive; motion for approval made and passed.

### County Project

Registering Democrats as Permanent Absentee Voters (PAV):

There was discussion of the value of PAV campaign in turning out Democratic voters and allocating campaign resources more effectively. President Diane Wallace asked members to circulate Permanent

Vote By Mail (PAV) forms to friends, family & neighbors and collect completed PAV forms for submission to the County Registrar, and continue the project into April.

Suggested approach:

Ask "How do you feel about President Obama and will you be voting for him in 2012?"

If "no," just talk about some successes but don't offer the Permanent Vote By Mail Application

If "yes," ask them to complete the application and bring the completed application to the April meeting.

### Reports – campaigns, elected officials, County Committee

Lynn Olson, Superior Court Judge in Carson, who is running for countywide reelection, is being challenged. She is a longtime Democrat asking for our endorsement and support. Motion for endorsement made and passed unanimously.

Dency Nelson asked that we endorse Betsy Butler, who currently represents us but is running in the 50<sup>th</sup> AD. Motion for endorsement made and passed unanimously.

Lori Geittmann circulated a petition by the Santa Monica Consumer Watchdog Campaign that requires that health insurance rate changes be approved by our Insurance Commissioner. It will not apply to large groups, only private plans. Lori

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## Beach Cities Democratic Club



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also suggested that we all write to Supreme Court Justice Kennedy in support of upholding the Affordable Care Act.

Diane circulated a petition for Gov. Jerry Brown's sales & income tax proposal for the November ballot that would restore education funding.

Tony Hale mentioned that State Senator Rod Wright was one of six Democrats who voted against single payer health-care in CA and asked that we support his opponent Paul Butterfield of San Pedro in the upcoming campaign for the new SD #35, a solidly Democratic district. Butterfield has a stronger environmental record; Wright is a climate change denier. Motion for endorsement made and passed unanimously.

Varo Assorian asked for us to volunteer on behalf of Scott Houston, the only Democratic candidate for City Council in El Segundo. Scott needs volunteers over the next two weekends prior to the election.

Veronica Zendejas reported on Ted Lieu's newly introduced bills. SB 1080 aimed at improving personal finance education is out of committee. SB 1221 has been introduced to ban use of hound dogs for killing bears and bobcats. SB 1313 assures accurate healthcare info for purchasing insurance, written in clear language. SB 1373 will require disclosure to patients if doctors for your surgery are out of your insurance network so you don't get a surprise bill.

Don Dear reported from the West Basin Municipal Water District, which covers 17 cities serving 1 million people. Metropolitan Water District is about to raise rates for next year by about 5%, and the water board will have to pass along those cost increases. The reason: increased cost of power for transporting water. He also discussed water reductions due to reduced snowpack, competition from other states, and the Delta Smelt. In the South Bay, only about 30% of our water comes from groundwater. Dear also mentioned a suit filed by San Diego to shift costs to LA.

Diane Wallace mentioned that the Cash for Grass rebate program does not apply to larger condo communities and asked that Don consider pushing for a change in that program.

Dency mentioned the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge that will start March 30. Look on [www.wyland.com/foundation](http://www.wyland.com/foundation) and look for the Mayor's Challenge for details. Hermosa Beach is the reigning champ!

Lori reported on County Committee deliberations. She announced the JFK Awards Ceremony is to be held on 4/26 at the Stadium Club at Dodger Stadium. Check the website for winners.

CDC has an endorsement process. We need 5 – 6 people to volunteer to go online in April and endorse AI.

### Reports from other area clubs

Varo announced that Torrance has been supporting AI with fundraisers and hosting a voter registration table the Torrance Farmer's Market every Saturday.