

Next Meeting

Manhattan Bread & Bagel
1812 N. Sepulveda Boulevard
Manhattan Beach
Wednesday, November 19
7:30 PM

Note Earlier Date!

We'll have a lot to talk about in the wake of the November 4 election, as well as hearing from our electeds and their representatives.

BCD does not have a meeting in December, so don't miss this last regular meeting of the year! We will also have details about our holiday party coming up in January.



Enjoying festivities at the Annual FDR Dinner are Carolyn Waters, BCD President Kathryn Campbell, and BCD Treasurer Edna Murphy

From the Editor

This is the final issue of BCD for the year. We resume publication in January. It's my chance to heartily thank my wonderful contributors and the faithful distributors Mark Drabkin and James McGreevy. Space doesn't allow me to name everyone who's helped over the year, but I couldn't do this without you! *Moirra Zucker*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON
PERSEVERENCE

On November 5, when trying to make sense of our Democratic losses, both across the nation and here in the South Bay, I was reminded of a story that my old boss told me back when I worked in Washington many, many years ago. He told me about coming across a solitary, disconsolate Bill Clinton, at the time the Governor of Arkansas, the evening that he gave the nominating speech for Michael Dukakis at the Democratic National Convention. The speech was so uninteresting and long winded that national media cut away early, delegates completely tuned him out, and a loud cheer went up when, after 30 long minutes, he finally began to wrap up with the phrase "in conclusion."

Afterwards, he apparently sat alone, as if he didn't have a friend in the world, almost certainly pondering how he had wasted his opportunity to gain the national spotlight and likely ended his ambitions for higher office.

The rest, as they say, is history. That was not the first setback for "The Comeback Kid," and as we all remember, it was not the last. And yet, Bill Clinton is now widely viewed as one of the most effective modern American presidents.

Among the few Democratic success stories this year was the triumphant and unprecedented fourth term of Governor Jerry Brown. And yet, 20 years ago, he was viewed as something of a kook who had launched several unsuccessful runs at President. Today he's hailed as the hero who rode to the rescue of California when we needed someone to lead us out of the wreckage left by Governor Schwar-



zenegger's mismanagement.

I could go on and on. The reality is, every successful candidate has also had major setbacks. Even our beloved Congressman Lieu (boy it feels good to write that!), who has had both an illustrious and fortunate career in politics, lost badly in his run for California's Attorney General a few years ago. The reality is that what seems like inevitable ascent in hindsight is far messier in reality. Success in politics, no matter how well deserved, is very largely a matter of simple perseverance. Just picking yourself up, dusting yourself off, learning what you can from your losses, and then coming back smarter and stronger than ever.

Yes, we suffered some bitter defeats recently. Yes, our pain is real, and will take some time to move past. And yet, that is just one paragraph of a very long story, a story that we are still writing. And all of the stories worth writing, all of the stories that inspire, require one thing. That we do move past our disappointment, that we pick ourselves up, and that we keep going. There simply is no other path to lasting victory. Let me leave you with the words of a man who epitomized perseverance and victory:

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended."

— Nelson Mandela

Yours, Kathryn Campbell, President

OCTOBER RECAP

Beach Cities Democrats

Content includes minutes courtesy of Secretary Teresa Bird

President Kathryn Campbell welcomed the BCD members and new guests including Adam and Eva Gerard and first time visitor Evalyn Passaro. Adam is from Yale University and is a student advocate for environmental issues.

Ankur Patel, from Consumer Advocates for Safe Food and Water, was present to urge a NO vote for Prop. 1, sponsored by Food and Water Watch. He said we distribute five times as much water as needed, and that we do not need anymore dams to be built. He also pointed out that the proposition includes no funds for infrastructure repair.

Don Dear of West Basin advocated for a YES vote for Prop 1. He said we need to be prepared to harvest rain water when it comes. The proposition allocates money for water recycling and storage, including other important projects. Kathryn thanked Senator Ted Lieu for introducing legislation regarding prisoners access to DNA evidence for California prisoners.

VP Dency Nelson also thanked Senator Lieu for legislation to keep jobs here in California for the movie industry. DGA is honoring Senator Lieu with a luncheon in December with full confidence that he will be elected to Congress. Kathryn asked the BCD for a lifetime membership for Vi Mullins. Dency added that Vi was his mentor in the early days when he became involved in politics in the South Bay. Vi's husband Bill passed away recently. He was a World War II veteran who survived Pearl Harbor.

Flowers were sent to the family by BCD Treasurer Edna Murphy (not present). Diane Wallace presented the Treasurer's report: Federal account, \$3417.00, State Account, \$151.00, money out \$100.00 (flowers) from Fed account, ending balance, \$3317.00.

The October minutes were read and approved.

President Campbell asked for a motion to contribute \$200.00 to each of our endorsed candidates, Ted Lieu, Al Muratsuchi and Sandra Fluke's campaigns. Ray Waters made a motion to this effect and the motion passed unanimously.

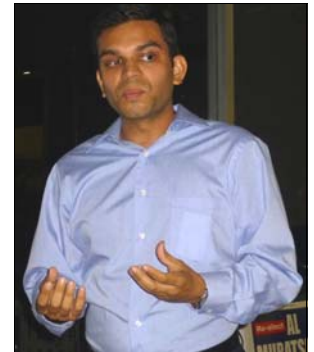
Ray Waters reported the LA County Committee met with serious work ahead on some controversial issues.

Alison Hart (from Sandra's campaign) passed out dates and times of phone banking, precinct walking, and other campaign activities.

Diane Wallace announced the 66th AD Holiday Party will be Friday, December 12 at Lisa Power's home in Manhattan Beach from 5 – 8 PM. The 66th AD will have Michael Dukakis as a guest in January, and will send out announcement of where and when. Also, the Henry Waxman thank you event will be November 9th, location TBA.

Kathryn also thought it would be nice if we offered a complimentary membership to Michael Keegan for allowing us to use the Bread & Bagel for our meetings. Motion made and passed.

The Roosevelt dinner had 750 attendees and we all had a great time.



October speakers Don Dear and Ankur Patel

Julian Burger of the Progressive Democratic club announced a special election for State Senator upcoming on December 9. He also suggested that members vote "no" on CA Supreme Court Justices Liu and Werdegard to show our displeasure over their vote not to allow Sen. Ted Lieu's Overturn Citizen's United Act on the ballot.

President Campbell urged members to consider candidates to nominate to run to represent the Beach Cities Democrats on the 66th ADDC in 2015. Our representative for the last two years has been Lisa Power (not present). After a rep is chosen by each club (BCD, Palos Verdes and Torrance), a Secretary and a Treasurer will also be elected.

President Campbell announced that the November meeting of the BCD would be one week earlier than usual, on Wednesday 11/19, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The annual Democratic New Year party will be held at the home of Ray and Carolyn Waters on Saturday, 1/24/15, from 5:30 – 8:30 PM.

The ADEM Elections will be held Jan 10 – 11, 2015. Mark your calendar now if you plan to run for a Delegate position.



BEACH CITIES GREEN

Dency Nelson

Call me lazy, or call me depressed after the devastating November 4 election, or if you want to be kind just call me relevant. It's that time of the year



and I'm just going to reprint my annual tips for a "green" holiday season, with a couple of very minor adjustments. It'll be new for the new folks and a reminder for my regular readers. The following information has been compiled from some of my past columns and from information posted by "Clean Air-Cool Planet," "Coalition for Clean Air," and "Green America."

First, your holiday travel can have a big impact on the environment. Planes currently produce about 12% of transportation-related CO2 emissions worldwide. Trains and buses can often move as many people as planes, and even though most of these modes of transit use diesel fuel, they create as much as 1/3 less CO2 emissions than commercial aircraft. Better yet, if time and distance allow, consider driving your hybrid car (or renting one if you don't own one) for that holiday trip. If you must fly, consider purchasing carbon offsets through www.nativeenergy.com or some other organization.

For your holiday decorating, how about trading in those incandescent string lights for LED string lights? The latter use considerably less power and last longer than traditional incandescent lights, and some now come with small solar panels that make and store electricity during the day to power those lights at night. I've seen them at Home Depot and many other local stores the past couple of years. LED lights cost more initially, but using less power and lasting longer, they offset that extra cost over time and do the planet a favor. If you are reading this before November 13 & 14, you can trade

one string of old, electricity-guzzling incandescent holiday lights for one new energy-efficient LED string both days from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the South Bay Environmental Services Center, 20285 S. Western Avenue, Suite 100, Torrance 90501. You must be a DWP or SCE customer and you need to bring your license or a utility bill. For more information call 310-371-7222.

What about the Christmas tree itself? For the past five years our family has rented a living tree from a local company, the Living Christmas Company www.livingchristmas.com. This company received the 2010 SEED Award for Environmental Innovation, and they are absolutely wonderful! Not only do we have the fun of welcoming the same tree back into our living room each year, but during the rest of the year they keep our tree and the rest of their "rentals" in tubs on the "brown field" of a local oil refinery. It's land that can't be used for anything else and is located near a source of reclaimed water that is used to irrigate the trees throughout the year. Smart, sustainable and truly innovative! If you usually buy your tree from Kiwanis or some other local charitable organization, consider writing a check to that charity to make up for not buying your tree from them.

That brings me to holiday gift-giving. Locally made gifts are better for the local economy and better for the planet (less of a carbon footprint), plus they are often more unique and personal. Alternatively (or in addition), you can avoid the hassle of the mall and save money on gas by online purchasing. (Just skip the airmail shipping and further reduce the carbon by choosing ground delivery.) Not all companies are created equal, however, so look for great gifts from Fair Trade and environmentally and socially conscious businesses like those found at www.greenamerica.org. If you do purchase gifts, either from local vendors or online, be conscious about how you wrap them. Gift packaging and wrapping contribute to a 25% jump in trash during the holidays.

Choose gifts with minimal packaging and wrap them in reusable gift bags or recycled wrapping paper, or even in newspaper or brown bags that you decorate yourself.

And then there is, in my opinion, the best option for holiday gift giving. I've said it the past couple of years and I'll say it again. Each year it has become easier for me to ignore the pressure imposed upon us all in our over-consuming society to buy, buy, buy! It has become my practice these past few years to cut down on buying the stuff and instead make the gift of a better world by making donations to socially conscious and/or environmentally friendly organizations.

Three years ago I sought out the local food banks of friends and relatives near and far. Here in Los Angeles it is the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank www.lafoodbank.org. For my relatives in the San Francisco Bay Area, it is the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. I did the same for my friends and relatives out of state—I made contributions to these organizations on their behalf and sent them a note I created announcing the gift, or used the notices that many of these organizations furnish for the purpose. This spreads the word about the organization to the people on my gift list, as well as providing their local organization with the desperately needed dollars to do its good work. The negative impact that this kind of giving has on the planet is minimal: just the paper for the note and the energy consumed for postal delivery, and that's it! The positive impact for the folks in need is a truly gratifying way to celebrate the spirit of the season!

I so appreciate all of us in the Beach Cities Democrats family. We are really going to have our work cut out for us in the next couple of years to offset the damage done by newly elected right-wing Republicans. Let's work hard for better results in the coming year. I wish all of you very "green" and healthy & happy holidays!!

Beach Cities Democrats
P.O. Box 2192
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
President
Kathryn Campbell — 310-316-4375
Vice-President
Dency Nelson — 310-374-4543
Secretary
Teresa Bird — 310-968-4731
Treasurer
Edna Murphy — 310-545-6292
Newsletter
Moira Zucker — 310-546-7562
moiraz@alumni.reed.edu
Membership
Open
Database and Mailing
Mark Drabkin — 213-787-5267
Web Manager
James McGreevy — 310-320-1638

Please Print

Beach Cities Democrats Membership Form



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 newsletter via e-mail saves money. Check here only if you would like to receive it by US Mail.

Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address

Please make checks payable to Beach Cities Democrats and mail to P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
