

Next Meeting

Note new date!

Wednesday, November 30

7:00 PM

Hermosa Beach Community Center
710 Pier Avenue, Room #4
Hermosa Beach

Our next regular meeting will be on the **fifth Wednesday** of the month. (We are avoiding the fourth Wednesday this month as it is Thanksgiving Eve.) We are returning to our regular location at the Hermosa Beach Community Center.

We are excited to announce that our once-and-now-newly-elected Assemblyman for the 66th Assembly District, Al Muratsuchi, will be our featured speaker for the evening. His election was hard fought and we are thrilled that he will be representing us again!

We will also be asking our current members, whose dues are up to date, to sign our club's Charter Papers for the upcoming year.

PLEASE NOTE: This is the last issue of the BCD newsletter of the year. We will not be meeting in December but will reconvene in January. Watch for details of our January Holiday Party!

Democrats Honored

Many of our BCD officers and members attended the annual Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Dinner to honor our Democratic Man and Woman of the Year. This year the honorees were Redondo Beach City Councilman Bill Brand and Suzanne Medina, President of the Mexican-American Democratic Club. The event was held at the Sheraton LAX Hotel on Sunday, October 23.

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Waters

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Obama is a great and kind leader. His speech and actions following the debacle of our presidential election have been such an example of heart and brains. He is hurting as we all are, yet he was able to put aside



those feelings to make sure that there is a peaceful transition of power. Knowing that the President-Elect knows nothing about government, he is taking him under his wing and flying off to meet with our allies to reassure them that the United States will live up to its treaties and obligations.

This is the duty he has sworn to do. It is incumbent upon him to see that the Ship of State sails forward. He is hoping to influence his successor. It is a gargantuan job. Never has such an unprepared

person taken the reins of power, especially with such evil influences surrounding him. It is a scary and uncertain time.

Since the election it has been almost unbearable to watch the charade unfold, to witness the barrage of lying hate mongers or the talking heads talking about them.

I went to visit my great aunt, a 92 year old nun, in a convent an hour outside of New York City. It was quite serene except for the worried conversation of the Sisters. Most of them have spent their lives in foreign countries serving the poor and oppressed. They are all so afraid for those people they love.

As Americans we have been blessed with freedom. Freedom we were given as our birthright through the struggles and sacrifices of the patriots who came before us. Every right we have has been hard fought. Every era has had its difficulties and challenges. Facing the Alt Right is

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(President, continued from page 1)
now our challenge, it represents everything that is the antithesis of what America means to us and to the world.

I knew there were mass protests around the country, but I had not seen them. Tucked away in a bucolic setting, I was insulated from the horrific upside down world. Now in the city, it is all too real. The holiday season in New York is always wonderful, magical, frenzied and fun. People from everywhere enjoying all that the city has to offer.

Not anymore. Everywhere you go people are worried and unsettled. No matter what line you're standing in, what restaurant, theatre or store, it's always the same...people are scared for our future.

Even on Broadway last night, at a performance of Hamilton, the audience erupted in a spontaneous, emotional round of boos aimed at the V.P.-Elect. Actor Brandon Dixon read a statement to him, reportedly drafted by Hamilton producer/creator Lin-Manuel Miranda "... *We Sir, we - are the diverse America, who are alarmed and anxious that your new Administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend our inalienable rights, sir.*"

Walking down 5th Avenue with its barricades, closed streets and massive police presence is unnerving. Turning on West 54th Street to see hundreds of cops lined up for what I suspect was an anticipated protest, was downright frightening. We're in unchartered waters.

The police have a duty to protect the protesters. The protesters also have a duty and the constitutional right to assemble, march and let their voices be heard. This is a fight for the heart and soul and meaning of America.

Will the President succeed in influencing the President-Elect? There is a wonderful book called "The Presidents Club" which starts with the history of how President Truman appointed President Hoover to organize the effort to rebuild Europe after WWII.

Hoover was reviled at the time, but his successful endeavor led to regaining his reputation. That partnership led to the

tradition that each President in turn has helped and advised his successor. A really great idea considering that no one on earth can know the awesome responsibility that comes from sitting in The Oval Office except someone who has been there.

President Obama has had many successes throughout his presidency. He has served us well and represented us with great dignity. My fervent prayer is that he will be to his successor what Truman was to his predecessor. The fate of the United States and the world depends on it.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. I know it's so hard to feel thankful right now, but enjoy this beautiful American Holiday with your loved ones. Then plan to attend our meeting to be with your Democratic family.

Bobbi Buescher
President, Beach Cities Democrats



Ellen Rosenberg speaking on behalf of Measures C and EE

Board. She spoke in favor of Measures C and EE. Measure C would be used to enhance classrooms, while Measure EE would go to upgrade the Mira Costa gym, which is 65 years old. Property taxes would go up an average of approximately \$240 per year. The club voted unanimously to endorse both measures.

We discussed whether or not to fund a Robocall campaign promoting our local candidates: Al Muratsuchi, Vanessa Poster, Jim Kennedy, and Janice Hahn. The call could go out to the three beach cities, Manhattan, Hermosa, and Redondo, and the cost would be \$70 to \$100 per round. The club unanimously agreed to fund the Robocall.

Al then addressed the group, thanking all those who had worked tirelessly on his campaign, including those who came tonight to phone. He said early voting yields more Democratic than Republican votes, and he mentioned that he had just released a commercial with Jerry Brown on cable and broadcast. He said "When people vote, Democrats win."

It was mentioned that Kamala Harris and Tom Steyer would be visiting Al's headquarters in Torrance.

We ended by thanking Mike Keegan for the use, once again, of Manhattan Bread & Bagel for our meeting venue, and to George Schmeltzer for organizing the phone banks. We closed with a moment of silence in honor of the great activist Tom Hayden.

October Recap

Once again we met at Manhattan Bread & Bagel at 6:00 to phone bank for Al Muratsuchi, then started our regular meeting at 7. President Bobbi Buescher announced that our new Facebook page has been a hit, and has drawn in about three or four new members. Vice-president Dency Nelson announced that he will continue to be tabling at the Hermosa Beach Farmers Market until the election.

Next, Treasurer Edna Murphy gave the Treasurer's report:

Treasurer's Report

Federal Account

Beginning Balance	\$3,220
Money In	\$180
Money Out	\$174
Ending Balance	\$3,226

State Account

Beginning Balance	\$266
Money In	\$166
Money Out	\$15
Ending Balance	\$417

Next we heard from Ellen Rosenberg, president of the Manhattan Beach School

DECEMBER'S "GREEN" HOLIDAY TIPS – ONLY SLIGHTLY UPDATED FOR 2016



It's that time of the year, and as this will be the last newsletter

before the holidays yet again I am offering my annual tips for a "green," more sustainable holiday season. It'll be new for our new members and a reminder for us old-timers. 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 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 remaining 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 are costing less and less these days, and use less power and last longer. Triple win! You can load up your house with them guilt free!

What about the Christmas tree itself? For 8 years now 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, they continue to win awards, 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 in a sustainable way, using water from reclaimed sources 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 several 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. Seven 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!

Dency Nelson

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

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