

Beach Cities Democratic Club



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

September, 2004

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 7:30pm
David K. Hayward Center
2000 Artesia Boulevard, R.B.

Our meeting on September 28 will be a big welcome party for our new members. We will have information about all the club's activities and signup sheets for volunteering in all the campaigns. We'll also have Kerry/Edwards, Boxer, and Gordon t-shirts, lawn signs, buttons and bumper stickers. Join the fun!

Welcome New Members

The response to our recent door-to-door canvassing in the Beach Cities has been overwhelming. We thank all of you for your contributions and hope that you will become Democratic activists, if you weren't already.

Those who contributed at least \$20, the club's annual dues, have automatically become full members of BCDC. This has more than tripled the size of the club to approximately 600 members. We will undoubtedly experience some growing pains as we adjust to this sudden growth spurt, so please bear with us.

If you are a new member please fill out a form now and send it in to tell us which club activities you would like to participate in, or send an email to Steve Zucker (szucker@dslextreme.com) indicating your preferences.

Dues are Payable

Reminder to '03-'04 members: Your '04-'05 dues were due on July 1. If you haven't already done so, please send in a membership form with your check right now, while you're thinking of it.

Calendar

Private screening of Robert Greenwald's "Unconstitutional" documentary, detailing the shocking way that civil liberties have been curtailed and rolled back since 9/11 and the Patriot Act.
Thursday, September 23, 7 PM
Redondo Information Technology Center
811 N. Catalina Ave, Redondo Beach

Presidential Debate Party
Thursday, September 30
Mr. Pockets Sports Bar
516 N. Sepulveda, Manhattan Beach

Manhattan Beach Old Hometown Fair
Saturday and Sunday, October 2 & 3
BCDC booth in the Free Speech Area
10K Kerry/Edwards Visibility Walk,
Saturday 7:30 AM

Newsletter Delivery

We urge all members who have internet access to take delivery of the newsletter via email to save printing and mailing costs. If we do not have your e-mail address, please send it to Steve Zucker (szucker@dslextreme.com).

We will begin sending the newsletter via e-mail in November to all members for whom we have e-mail addresses unless they *explicitly opt-out* of e-mail delivery.

You may continue to receive the newsletter in printed form by notifying Steve by e-mail or by calling him at 310-546-7562 after October 1.

If you choose e-mail delivery, you'll receive a monthly e-mail containing a link to the club's website, <http://www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc/>, which you may visit at any time. You can read it online or print it.

Global Warming is Here Now and is Endangering our Planet

BY LILLIAN LIGHT

On September 7, the Reuters News Agency published a most alarming prediction. Professor Mike Pilling, who teaches Physical Chemistry at Leeds University in Northern England, told reporters that millions of people across the globe are set to die early due to extreme weather events such as heat waves and floods from heavy rainfall caused by global warming. . .He stated that, "There are predictions of a ten-fold increase in heat waves. . .The biggest issue is climate change. We have got to control it."

In California, because of a law passed by the state legislature under Gray Davis, the state Air Resources Board is formulating regulations to achieve the "maximum feasible and cost effective reduction" of global warming pollution from motor vehicles. The Board's draft regulations would require automakers to reduce emissions from new cars and trucks starting in 2009. These ~~regulations~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~place~~ ~~by~~ ~~2009~~.



Bobbi Buescher and Jim Aldinger hailing from the Convention.

Visit our Website at
www.lafn.org/politics/bcdc

From the President's Pen

After our enormously successful canvassing drive in the Beach Cities

over the summer, we now have more than 700 people in our BCDC family.

I am so thrilled to welcome all our new members. It is overwhelming to see your names on page after page of our revised membership list. Thank you for your interest and support of our Democratic club.

We have been working hard to organize all the new data and plan for the many ways our large numbers will require changes in the way we do things. My thanks to Steve Zucker for all the long hours and tireless work he has put into this effort. As we try to find our way, we are aware there will be growing pains. Many things will require trial and error, but the sheer joy of connecting with all our new people makes it all worth while.

I know many of you have joined because you felt compelled to take some positive action after these past 3 ½ dismal years of extreme right wing neocon leadership. We have been lied to, taken to war under false pretenses, lost many of the liberties that we are suppose to be fighting for, and had our treasury plundered.

There are so many ways to change things for the better. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to choose a new path, to put our country back on the road of defender of rights and beacon of hope in the world.

At our next meeting, we will have information on all the different ways that you can be involved and help to take our country back.

My hope is that many of you will want to be hands-on and be involved with the club activities and committees. Many more are excited about the



September Recap

Campaigns Heat Up

Bobbi opened the crowded meeting with rave reviews of the Democratic Convention. She described rousing addresses from our candidates, especially John Kerry; he “gave us back our country.” President Carter was direct and candid and “told it like it was,” Barack Obama was inspiring.

Next, Shirlee Browne reported that we have over \$5,000 in the treasury as a result of our explosive growth in membership. Most of the new members were recruited by PZ Associates.

Our first candidate to speak was Donna Groman, running for Superior Court judge. She told of her years of experience working with juveniles and families and says she would take a leadership role in the court and bring stability to family court cases.

Her experience includes seven years as a commissioner with experience in mental health treatment, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Judges' races are county-wide and nonpartisan. Asked about her position on certain issues, Groman said the rules of judicial ethics prevent candidates from expressing opinions about matters that may come before them. Voters can check on the Internet to learn about their positions; check the League of Women Voters and SmartVoter.com. Groman's opponent is a Republican deputy district attorney.



Judicial races are expensive and it costs \$31,500 to place a statement in the voter pamphlet.

Next we heard from Mildred (Millie) Escobedo, running for Superior Court Judge Office 18. She has been a Superior Court Referee since 1998 and is endorsed by Sheriff Lee Baca, State Assemblyman Marco Firebaugh, and the Mexican American Correctional Officers Assn. She is the only Latina and the only Democrat in her race.

We voted to endorse Groman and Escobeda and donate \$250 to each of their campaigns.

Lillian Light then spoke about the upcoming event “Earth, Environment, Economics, Election,” which BCDC is co-sponsoring this month, featuring environmentalist John Quigley. The club voted to donate \$100 towards mailing expenses.

Precinct organizers Lori Geittmann and Jim Aldinger reported that the August 21 organizing event at Polly-



wog Park was a huge success with 120 people showing up. Volunteers were asked to walk their own precincts or a neighboring one to recruit more volunteers and get people to vote by mail.

Lori said that being a precinct captain allows one to participate in the “ultimate local political process.” She said most people don't know who to vote for in the local races and seek out their precinct captain for advice.

District leaders include Anne Faas, Shirlee Browne, Tony Hale, Lee Fink,

Left: Judicial candidates Millie Escobeda and Donna Groman; above, Alexis Beeman announcing the new Party office in Inglewood; right, Sandra Lloyd Jones from Mike Gordon's campaign.

(Continued on page 4)

Mustapha Sesay, Ray Waters and Dency Nelson. Lead organizer Larry Fox has been working night and day printing out precinct forms.

Lori reminded us that local elections are coming up in March. Jim Aldinger will be running again for Manhattan Beach City Council, Lee Fink may run in Redondo Beach, and Councilman Kurt Schmalz may run for Mayor.

Sandra Lloyd Jones from Mike Gordon's campaign thanked those who have been helping with phones.

She said although Mike is currently ahead 43% to 37%, his could still be a close race. His opponent Greg Hill is running a negative campaign, portraying Mike as a

tax-and-spend liberal. (*Ed. Note—Don't people ever tire of this line?*) She said—quoting Bill Clinton—that if Republicans fought fair, they would never win.



Bobbi reported that CDC is entering into a contract to acquire the Cali-

fornia Voter File for all 58 counties in the state. When completed, the file will be accessible to all CDC affiliated organizations from their home computers. The data will include walk sheets, telephone lists, mailing lists and targeting information. The project is expected to cost \$200,000 at startup and \$60,000 per year thereafter. Our local CDC has pledged to raise \$25,000. The club voted to donate \$250.

It was reported that George Nakano is sponsoring two bills: AB 2065, to require care facilities with six beds or more to install sprinklers, and AB 2093 to prevent gray water from being dumped into California waters. We were sad to hear that this is George's last week in session. He is considering a run for State senate in 2006.

Alexis Beeman announced a new State Democratic Party office has opened in Inglewood on Imperial and Yukon. The Party is opening offices in areas with low voter turnout to encourage volunteers. The Inglewood office has twelve phone lines and has organized precinct walking seven days a week. Hours are 10 to 9 M-F, 10 to 6 on Saturday, and 2 to 6 on Sunday.

(*Warming, continued from page 1*)

now under attack, and we need to send a message to Governor Schwarzenegger and to Dr. Alan Lloyd, Chairman of the ARB, to support these new strong regulations. Let's urge them to be leaders in improving our air quality and the health of our children! For more information on this issue consult <http://www.care2.com/go/z/16705>.

Contact: Governor Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Bldg
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-2841
governor@governor.ca.gov

Dr Alan Lloyd
100 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814
916-322-5840 alloyd@arb.ca.gov

Volunteer Opportunities

South Bay for Kerry/Edwards
information: 310-515-3497
SouthBayforKerryInfo@att.net

Volunteer Mobilization and Training:
Every Saturday morning, 9:30 AM
Jim Aldinger's Home
1828 Pine Ave., Manhattan Beach
310-545-7514

Senator Barbara Boxer's Headquarters
5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 395, Los Angeles
323-904-4949
www.boxer2004.org

Jane Harman's Headquarters
2317 N. Sepulveda, Manhattan Beach
310-328-9125

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Monroe's Corner

There is more than enough in the press, along with TV and radio, to cover many political facets of the election. And you don't need my two-bit opinions added to the major pundits of the day (even if I think I am smarter!).

To paraphrase the Latin...Galia es dividia en tres partes...I have three separates items to discuss. The first is a serious question. What if we lose the war on terror? Where would it leave us and the world? Who and what would protect us from radiation, nuclear fallout, a dirty bomb, chemical dispersion, etc.? It would not take much to create our worst nightmare! And the problem too is that to defeat this kind of terror we may have to resort to things like deception, secrecy, coercion and the violation of many of our civil rights. Civil rights defines the USA. Much of the war on terror must be done in the shadows. The gravest need is for judges who are fair, intelligent, tough, and willing to stand up to any challenge from authority, including that of the President.

My second topic is the need to beat a dead horse, or at least a second rate actor, Ronald Reagan. In spite of Nancy's stellar performance at the funeral, Reagan's legacy is hardly simon-pure. Fact is, under his watch the government became inept, corrupt, and cynical. Reagan gave us the famous James Watt who launched a war on trees, Reagan gave us Paul Wolfowitz, Reagan gave us Dick Cheney, Reagan gave us the monstrous Ollie North, Reagan gave us John Poindexter, Reagan gave us "Cap" Weinberger, and Reagan gave us 138 officials who were convicted or indicted or were the subject of official misconduct and criminal violations.

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Beach Cities Democratic Club

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

President

Bobbi Buescher—310-545-7890

Vice-President

Lee Fink—310-370-3020

Treasurer

Shirlee Browne—310-798-0908

Secretary/Publicity

Kathleen Paralusz—310-621-3734

Newsletter

Moira Zucker—310-546-7562

Mailing

Marge Winston—310-372-8026

Database

Steve Zucker—310-546-7562

Web Manager

James McGreevy—310-320-1638

Membership

Barbara Blum—310-371-3143

GEORGE W. BUSH: THE BUCK STOPS OVER THERE

(President, continued from page 2)

election and want to help in the campaigns. Others may not be able to attend meetings, but want to stay connected and informed about what is happening in our Beach Cities from a democratic point of view. Whichever way you choose to use the club as a resource, we're thrilled to have you.

Because we are hoping for a huge turnout, rather than a structured agenda, we invite everyone to a casual evening of meeting new friends, talking politics and taking action. See you on the 28th.

Bobbi Buescher

(Volunteer, continued from page 3)

Mike Gordon's Headquarters
431 E. Grand Ave, El Segundo
310-322-2121
friendsofmikegordon.com

California Democratic Party: Every
Vote Counts
3535 W. Imperial Hwy., Inglewood
310-419-8187
evcinglewood@cadem.org

(Monroe, continued from page 3)

The historic refuse of his eight years is filled with illegal lobbying, gross influence peddling, bribery, fraud, and lots of sordid underhanded manipulative deals (with Iran, Russia, Guatemala, etc.). He left the world stage naked as a Jay-bird of Lady Godiva or the Emperor with no clothes. I'm sorry he is dead, but I'm not sorry he is gone!

And lastly, I just finished reading Bill Clinton's monumental biography of 967 pages, which indicates he started to focus on becoming President when he was about four years old. I think it is time for us, the Democrats, to pick up our collective heads and recognize his true value as a super-competent politico who did a superb job as President. He focused the USA as a beacon on the top of the hill; he produced the most widely shared economic boom since the 1960s; he consistently helped those at the lower economic spectrum; he reduced taxes and eliminated the national deficit. What he did with Monica needed resolution between himself and his wife,

his God, or his conscience, or all the above. It was a private matter and did not need the \$70 Million spent by Ken Starr, to prove that he was human and did not deserve impeachment.

On those notes, I leave you all with...Shana Tova...Happy Jewish New Year.

P.S. As an afterthought, I have some political humor that you might enjoy...

....Bush's first political campaign commercial will highlight his accomplishments in office. That's why it is a 15 second ad.

....In searching for Dubya's military records, they actually found some old Al Gore ballots.

....The Bush budget comes in two parts.....smoke and mirrors.

....Dick Cheney will now reveal the details of the Enron meetings. He met with unnamed people, from unspecified companies for an indeterminate amount of time, at an undisclosed location.

Monroe Weinstock